

# The Assembly and Evolution of the Amazonian Biota and its Environment

Dimensions of Biodiversity US-BIOTA-São Paulo

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[www.amazoniabiodiversity.org](http://www.amazoniabiodiversity.org)





# Scientific challenges and goals

- How is genetic, taxonomic, and ecological diversity distributed within Amazonia?
- What has been the evolutionary history of the Amazonian biota and how was it generated?
- What has been the history of the Amazonian aquatic and terrestrial environments?
- How has the Amazonian environment and its biota evolved together, and what have been the global effects of this evolutionary-ecological system over time?

Requires a new integrated approach



# NSF-NASA-FAPESP project: broad-scale collaboration

## Brazil

- Universidade de São Paulo
- Universidade Federal de Goiás
- Universidade Federal do Pará
- Universidade Estadual de Campinas
- Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi
- Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia

## Argentina

- CONICET-Instituto Superior de Entomologia, Tucumán

## Great Britain

- University of Edinburgh

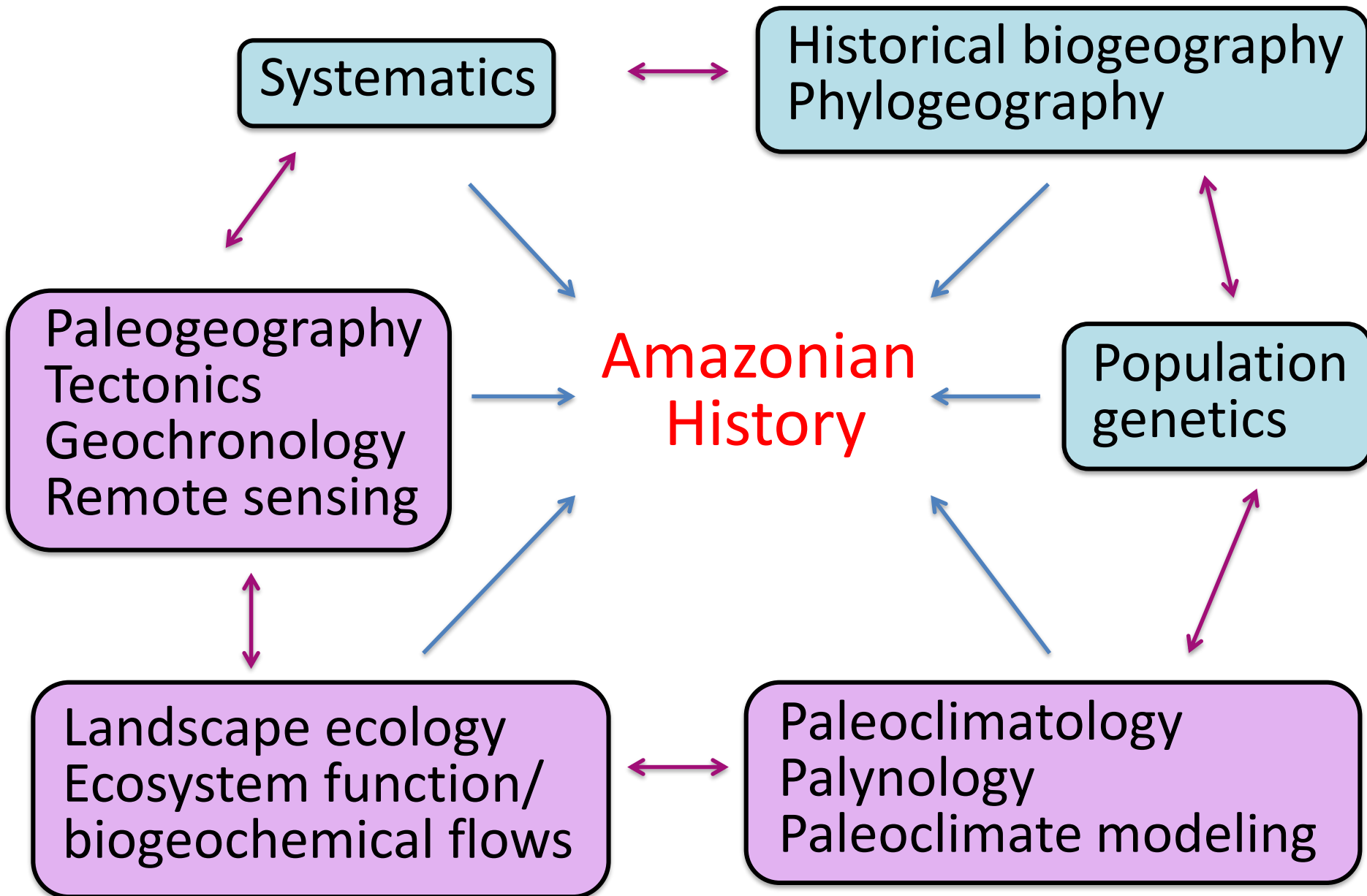
## Canada

- University of Toronto

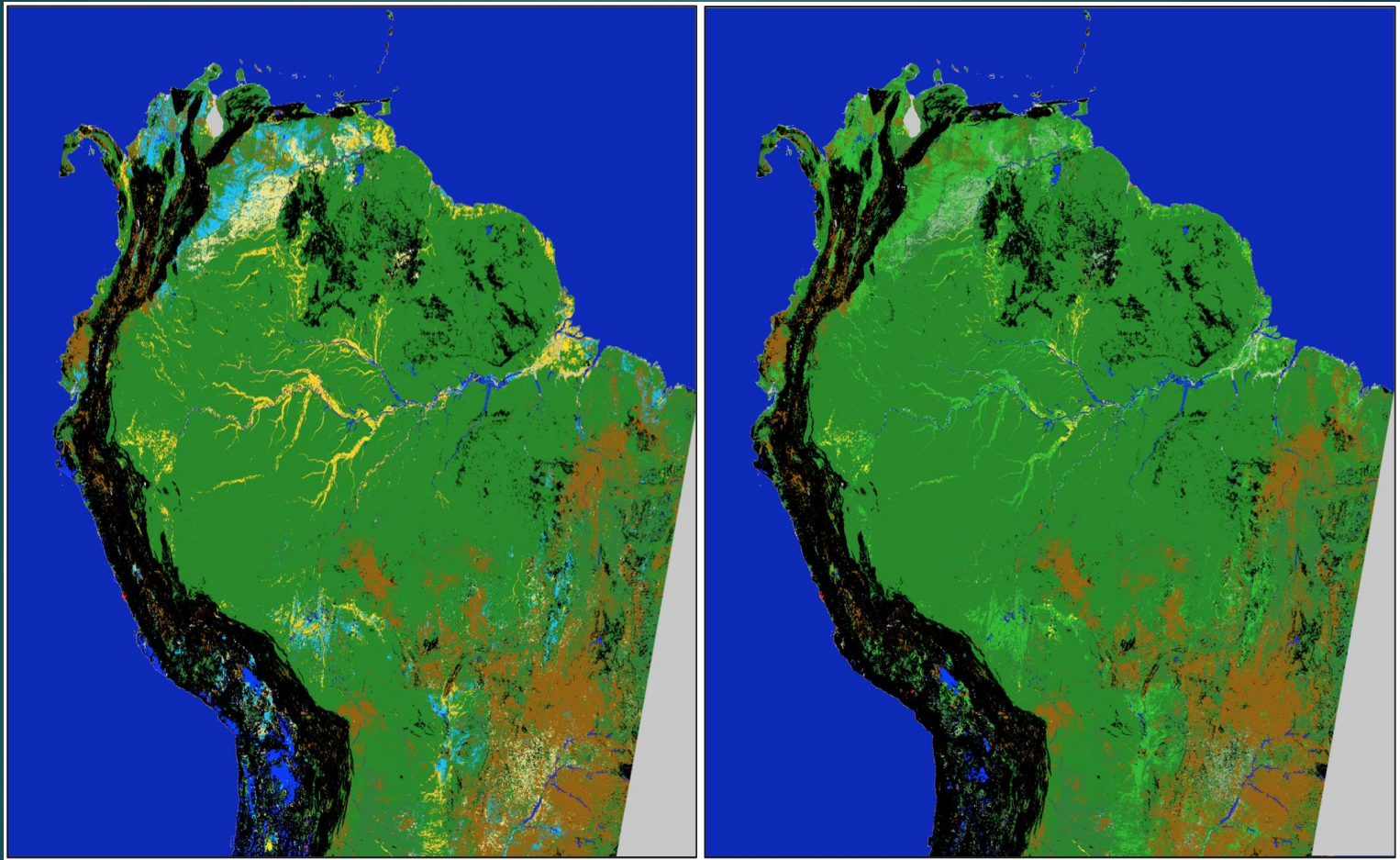
## United States

- American Museum of Natural History
- City University New York
- Field Museum of Natural History
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Natural History Museum Los Angeles County
- New York Botanical Garden
- University of Michigan
- University of Colorado

# Integration across disciplines



# Seasonal Maximum/Minimum Inundation from ALOS PALSAR ScanSAR

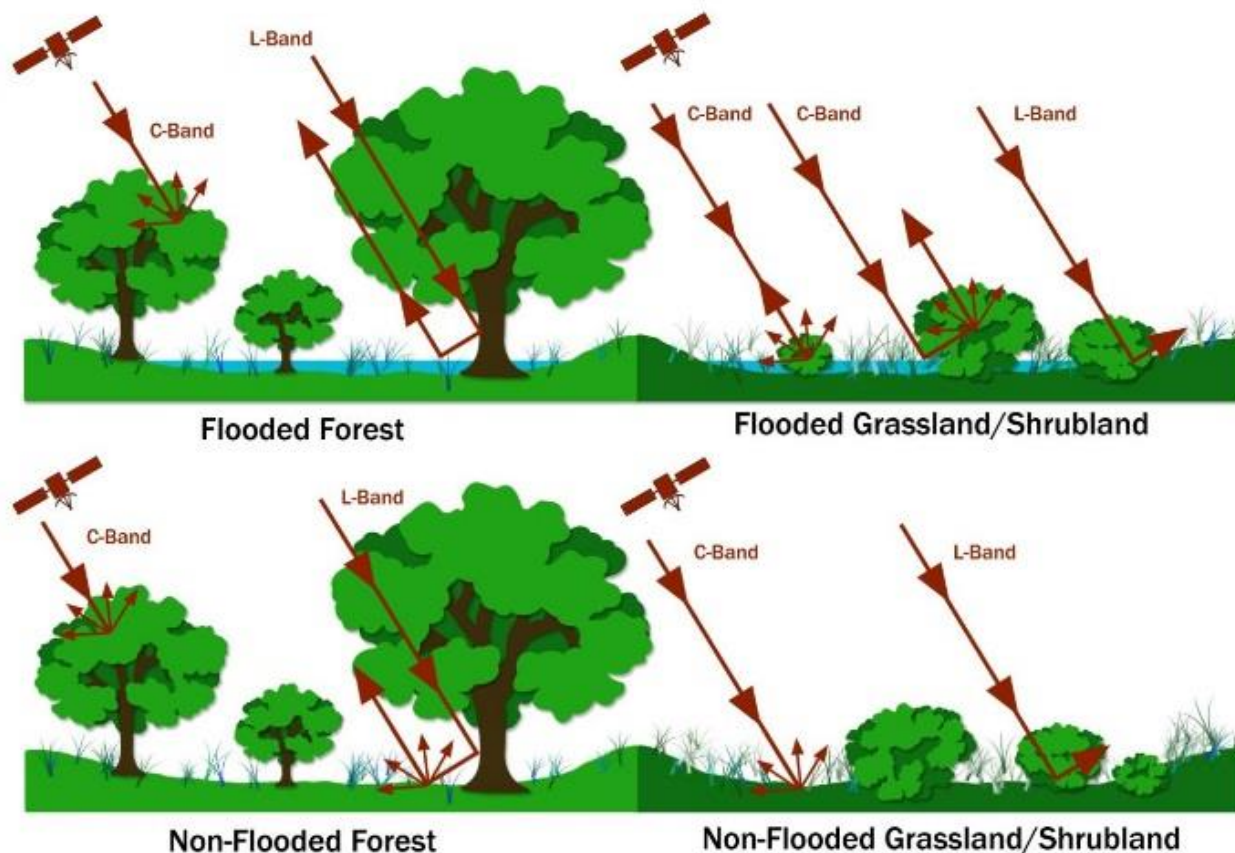


# Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)

- Sensor spectral **frequency** determines the surface and volume scattering contributions from the vegetation canopy and the ability to detect standing water at the surface

## Scattering of Radar Energy

Flooded Vegetation **VS.** Non-flooded Vegetation



**C-band:**

~6cm, 4-8GHz

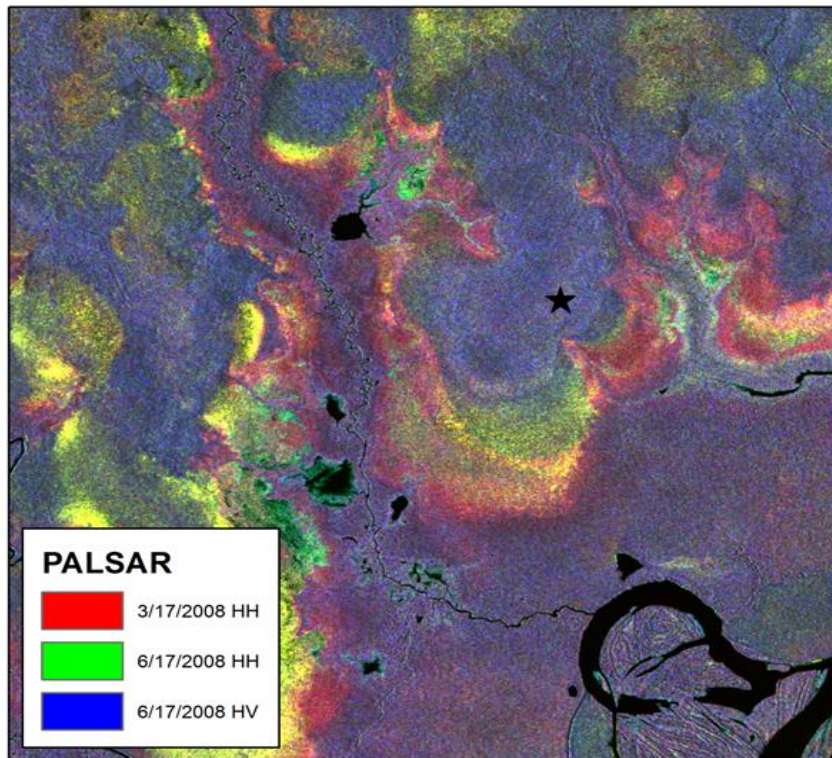
**L-band:**

~23cm, 1-2GHz



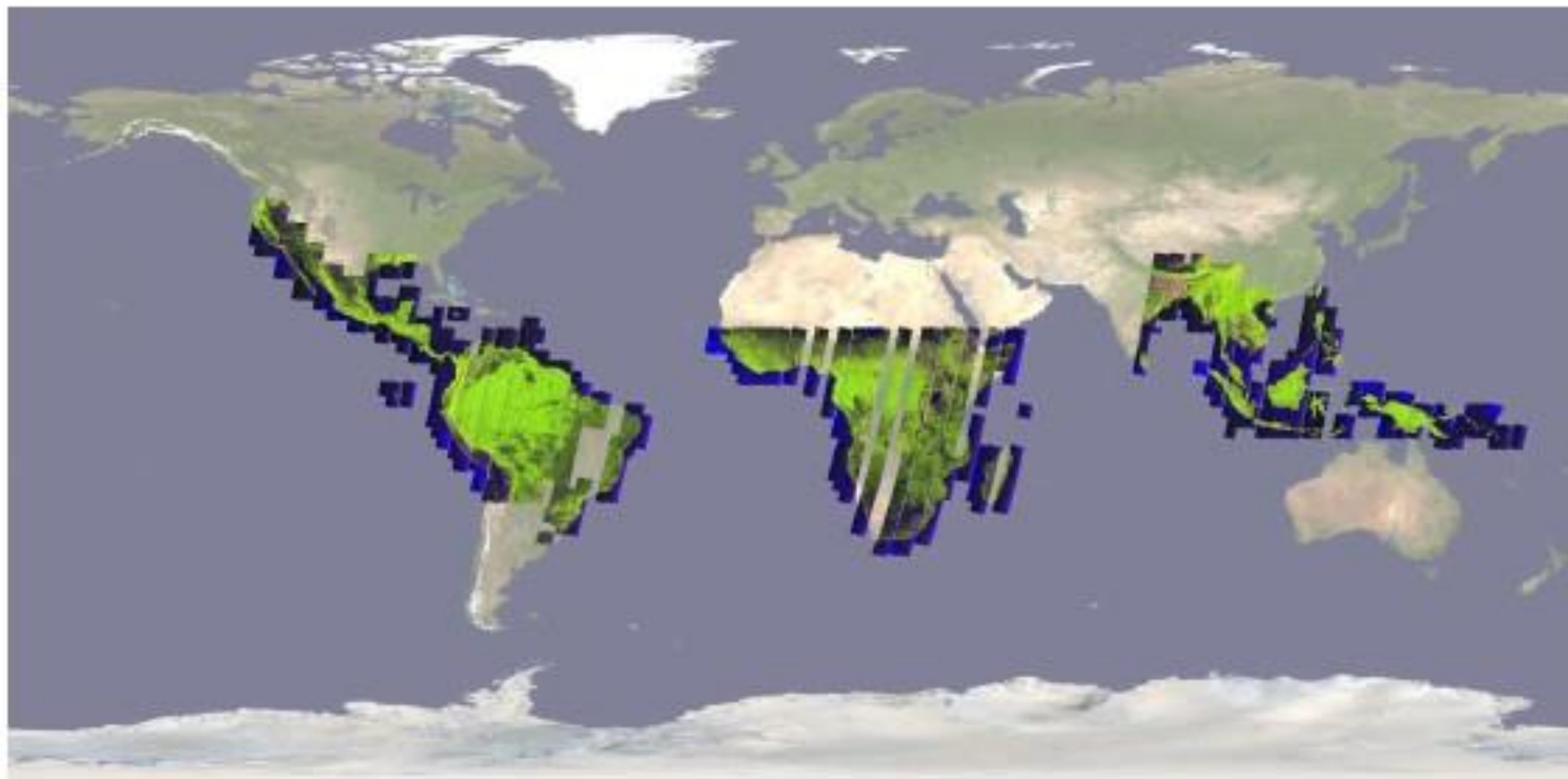
# Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)

- The different interactions of microwave data (PALSAR) with surface water compared to vegetation enable improved discrimination of inundated areas
- Comparing images from multiple dates (multi-temporal) improves understanding of hydrology and helps to distinguish wetlands and wetland types



- False color composite of multi-temporal and multi-polarized observations from ALOS PALSAR of a region of the Peruvian Amazon Basin near the Marañón River.
- Color variation is mostly driven by differences in hydrologic condition. The areas in brighter colors are sloping portions of a peat dome

# PALSAR 2 ScanSAR Coverage



Cycle\_085

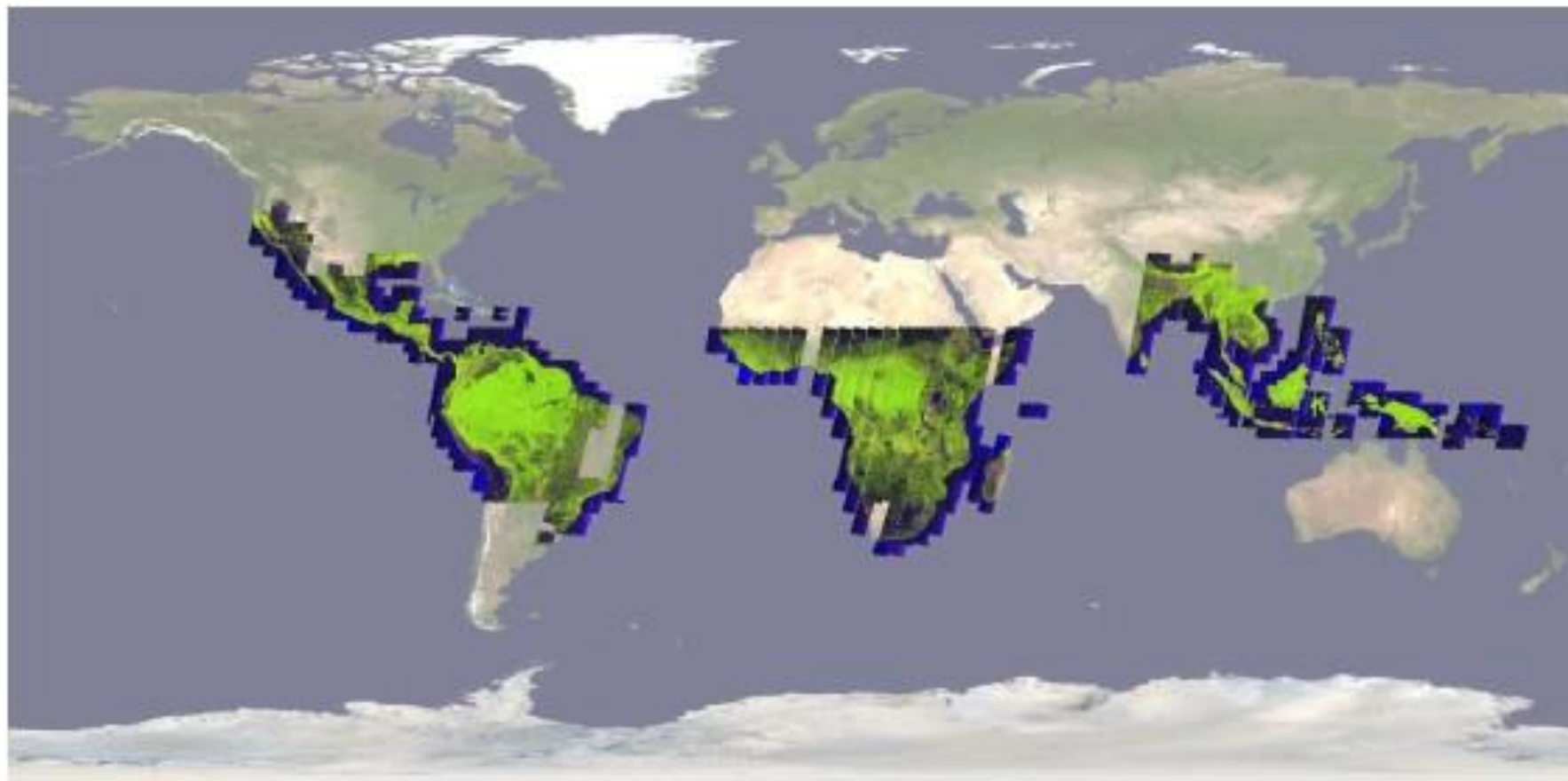
9-Oct-17

–

22-Oct-17



# PALSAR 2 ScanSAR Coverage



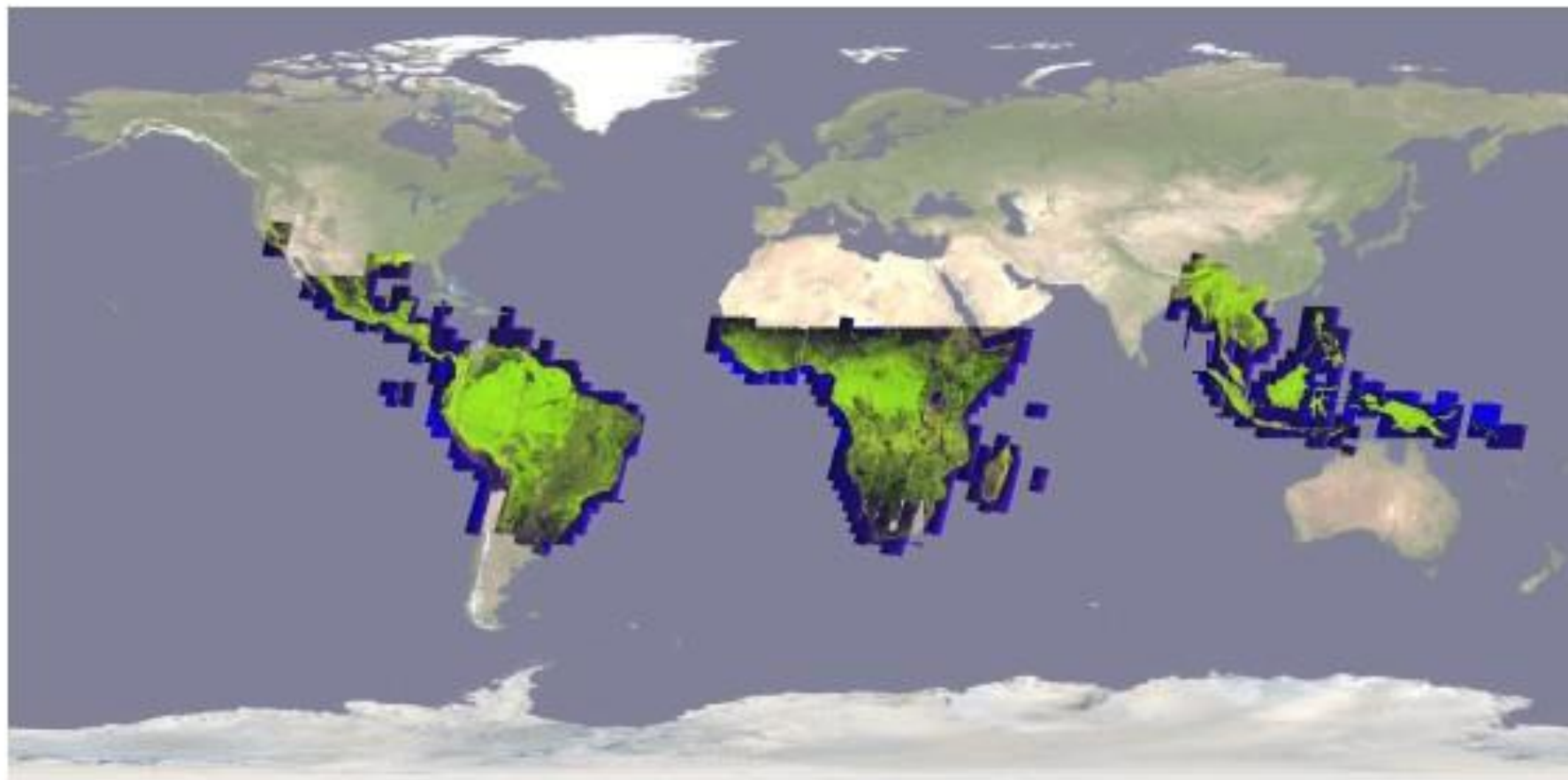
Cycle\_088

20-Nov-17

–

3-Dec-17

# PALSAR 2 ScanSAR Coverage



Cycle\_091

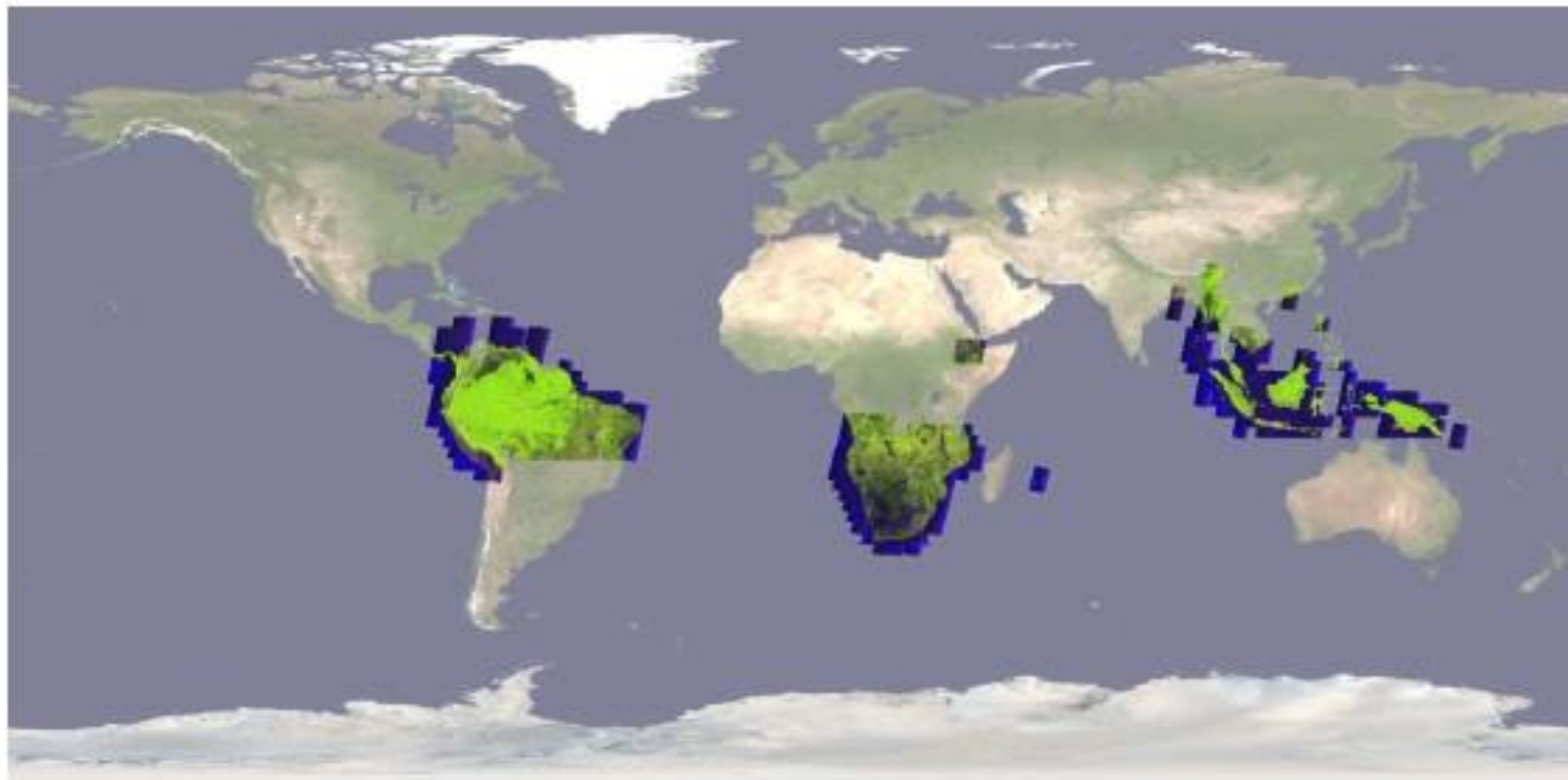
1-Jan-18

–

14-Jan-18



# PALSAR 2 ScanSAR Coverage



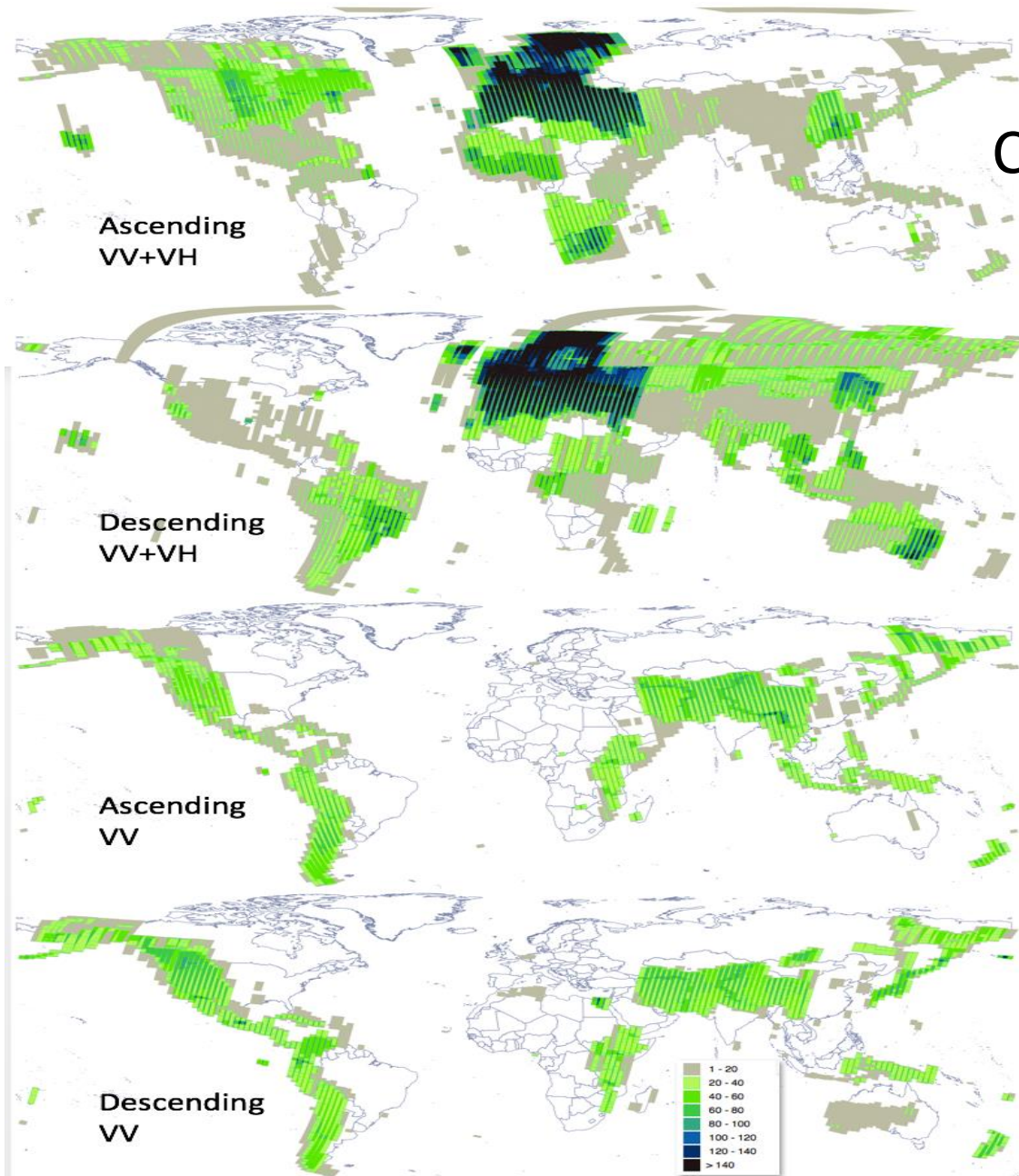
Cycle\_093

29-Jan-18

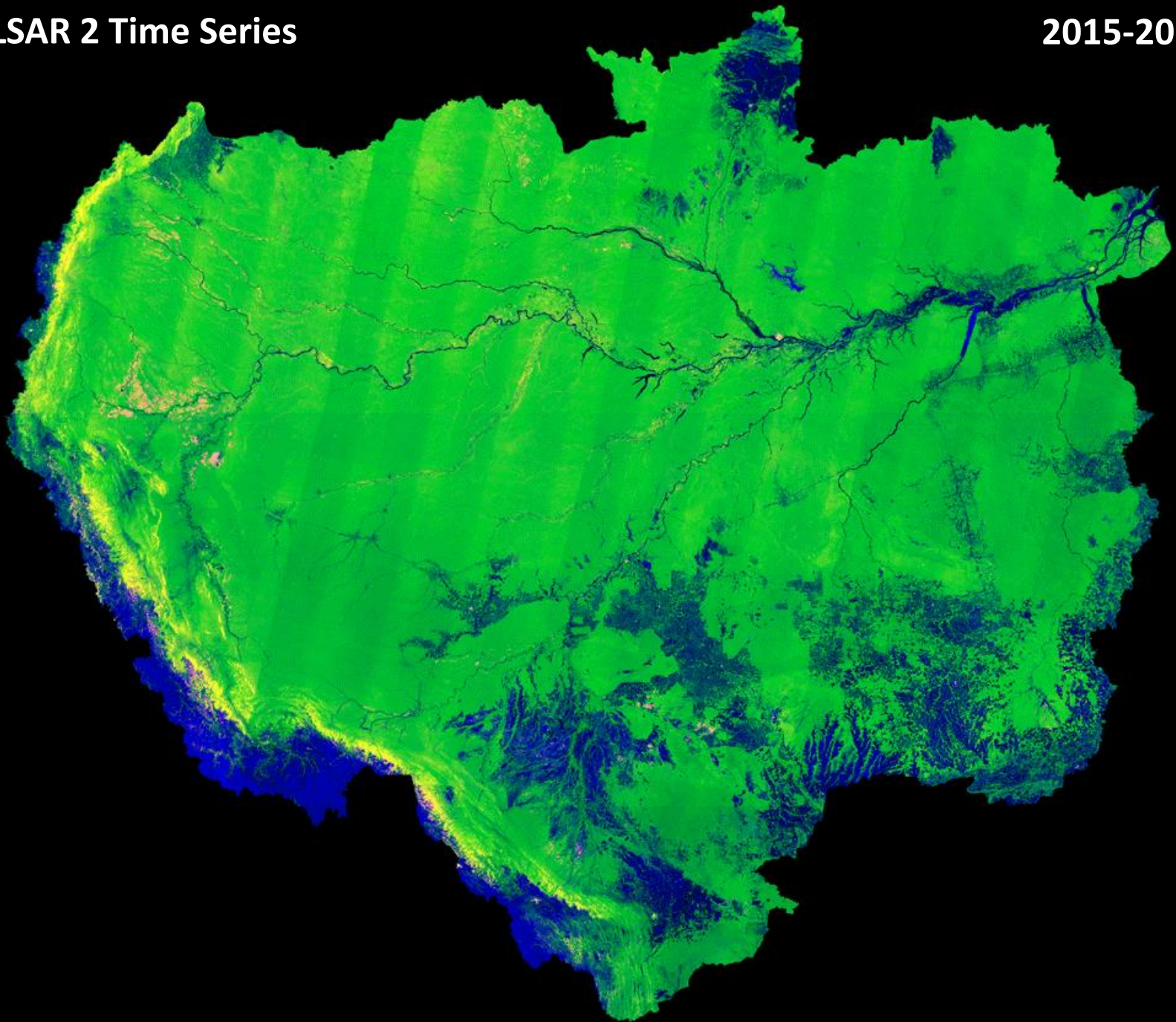
–

11-Feb-18

# Sentinel-1 A/B C-band SAR coverage

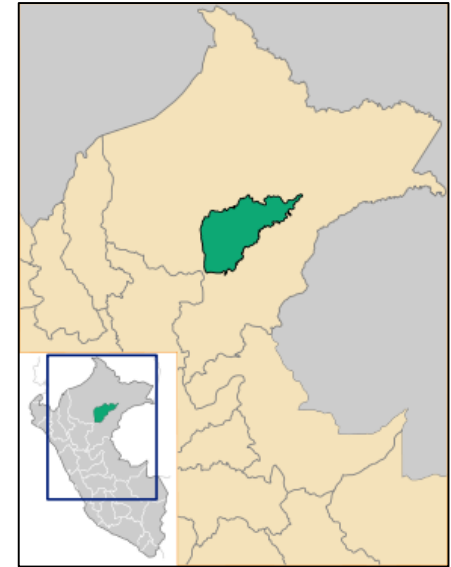






# Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru

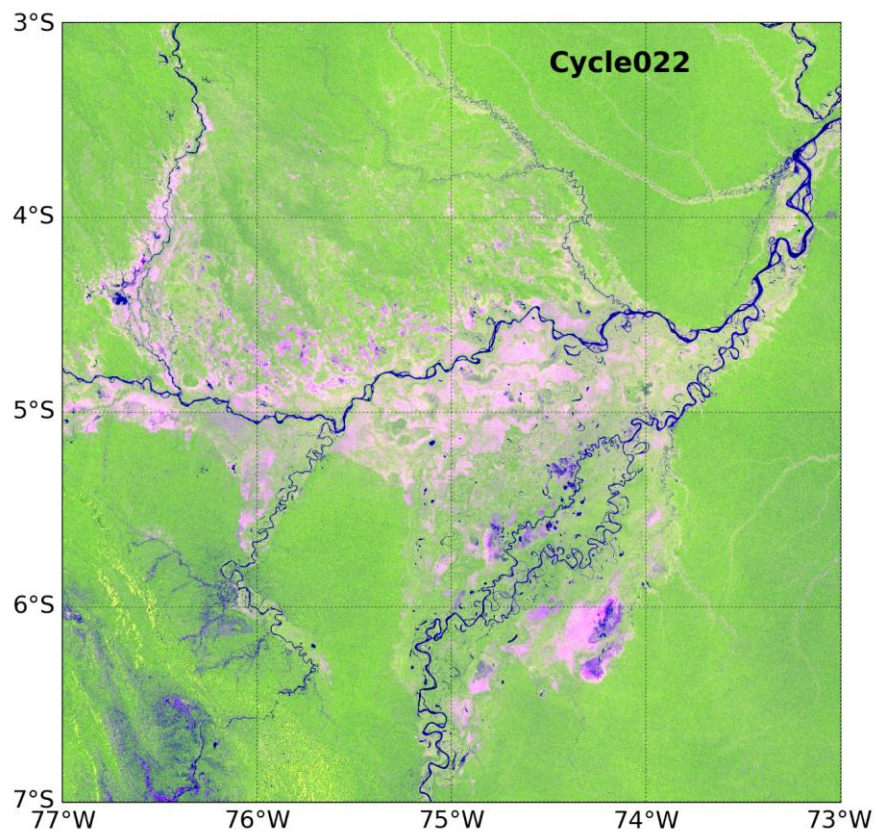
- Most extensive tropical flooded forest in the Peruvian Amazon
- Spans area of more than 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Hosts rich biodiversity
- Home to variety of wetland types, primarily palm swamp



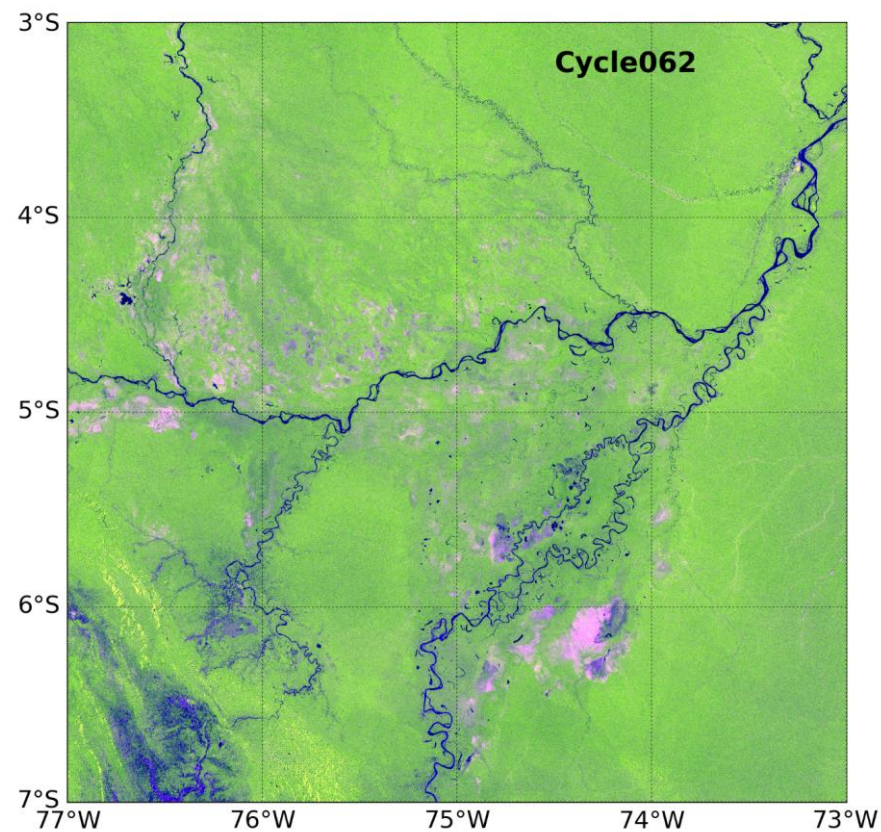


ALOS2 PALSAR-2 Dual Pol ScanSAR Mosaics **R**: HH, **G**: HV, **B**: HH-HV

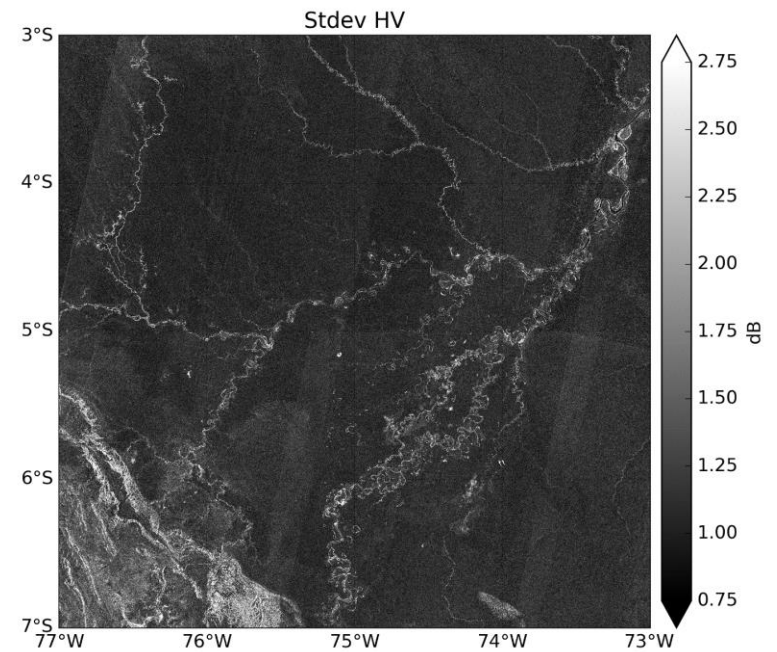
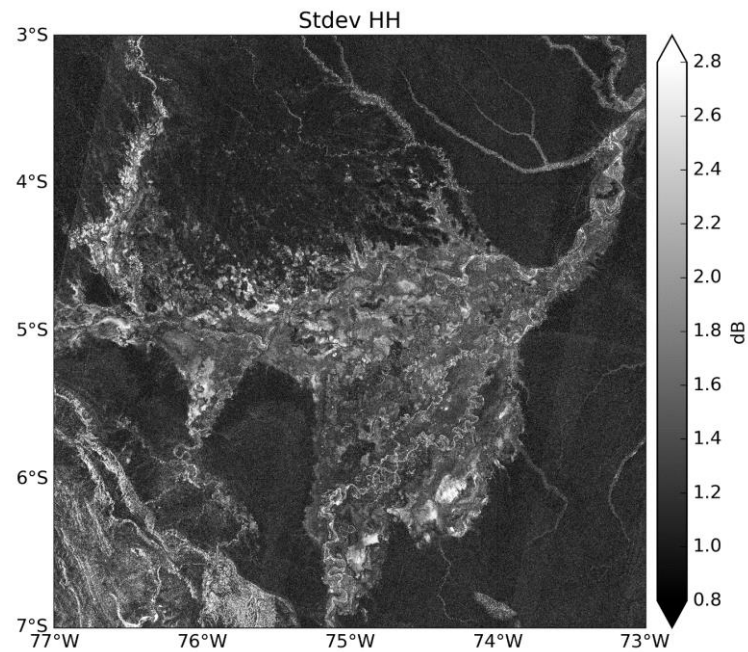
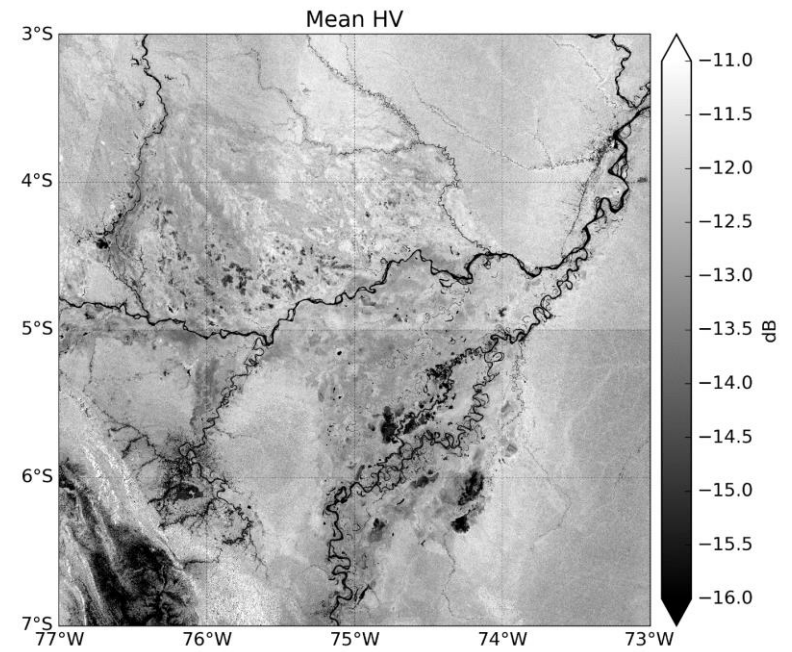
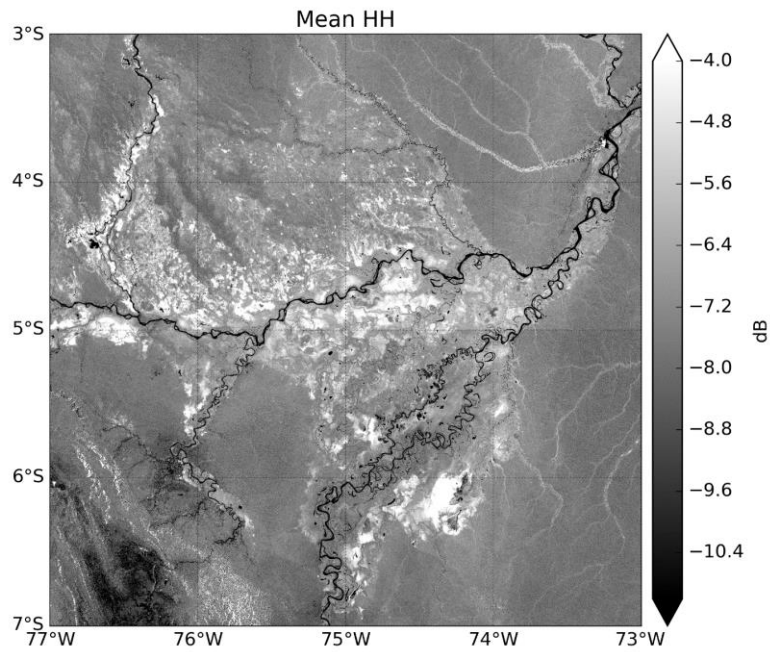
End of Wet Season - May 2015



End of Dry Season – Nov 2015



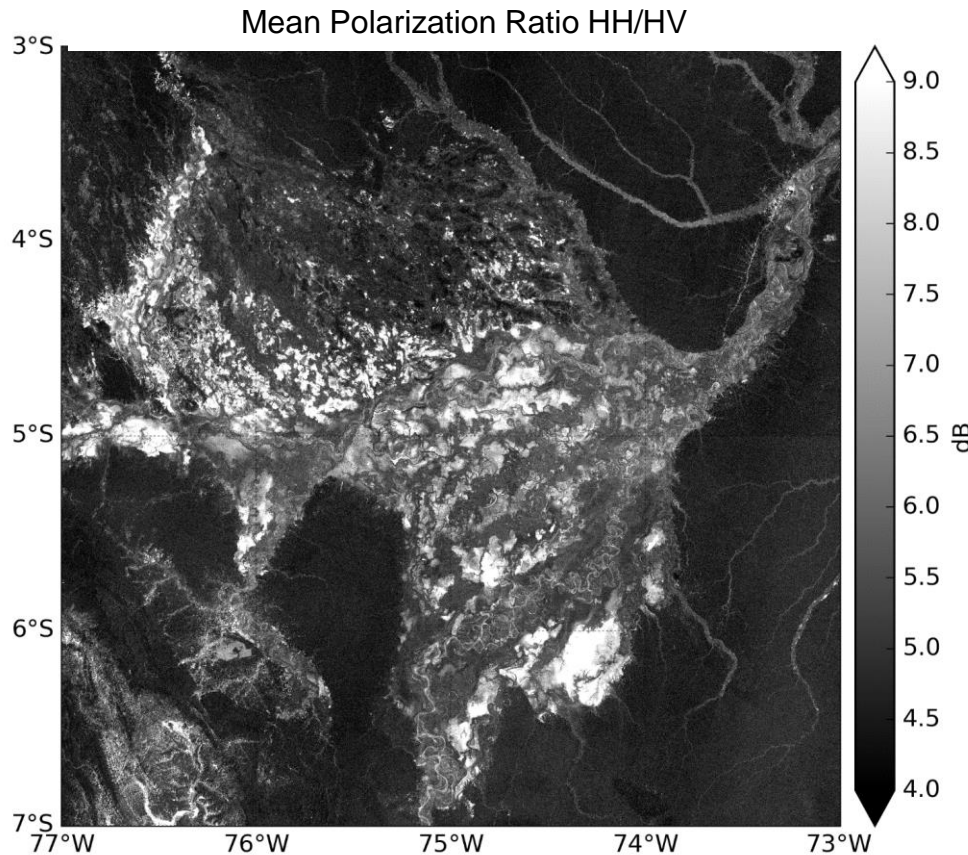
# Multi-temporal Statistics from 20 ALOS-2 ScanSAR ensembles (Nov 2014 – Feb 2017)





## Multi-temporal Statistics

- Calculated from 20 ALOS-2 ScanSAR scenes (Cycles #010 – #068; Nov 2014 – Feb 2017)



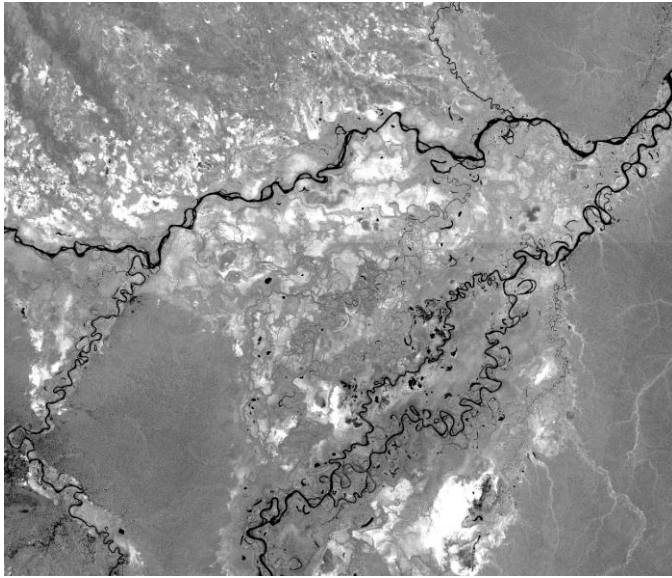
**HH** more sensitive to seasonal changes  
inundated vegetation

**HV** useful in discriminating vegetation  
structure - seasonally flooded low  
vegetation (grasses, etc)

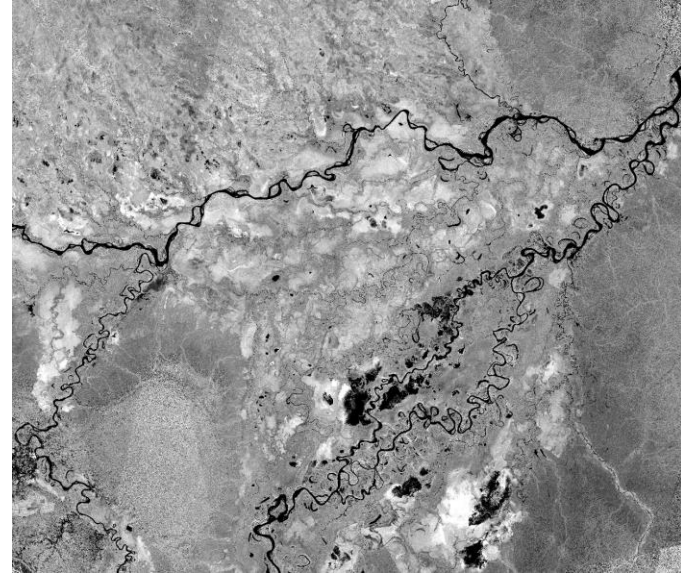
**Polarization Ratio (HH/HV)** potentially  
helpful at discriminating flooded vs. non-  
flooded vegetation

# Multi-temporal Statistics, calculated from observations made in Jan 2015 – Dec 2017

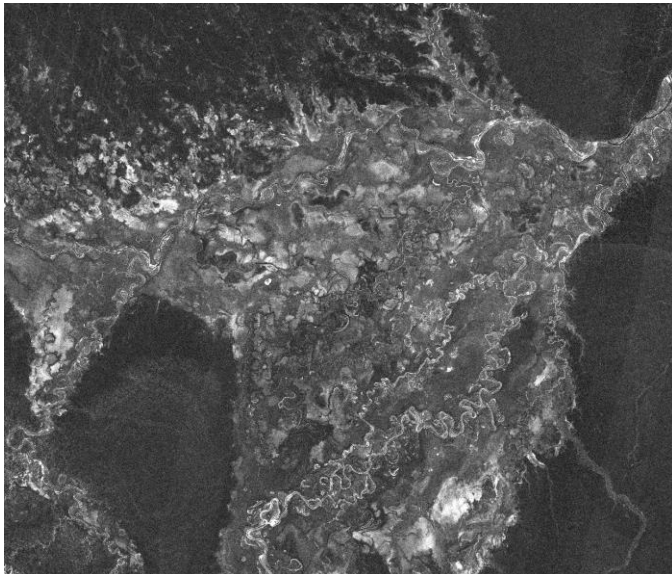
**HH Mean [PALSAR-2, L-band]**



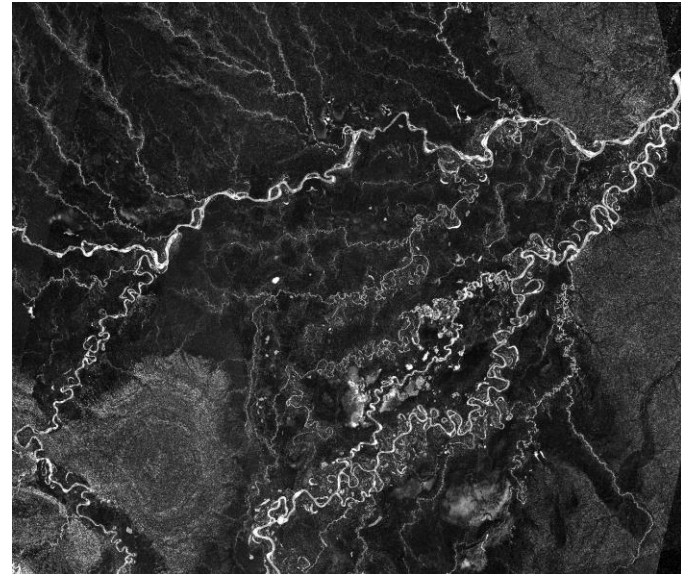
**VV Mean [Sentinel-1, C-band]**



**HH Stdev [PALSAR-2, L-band]**



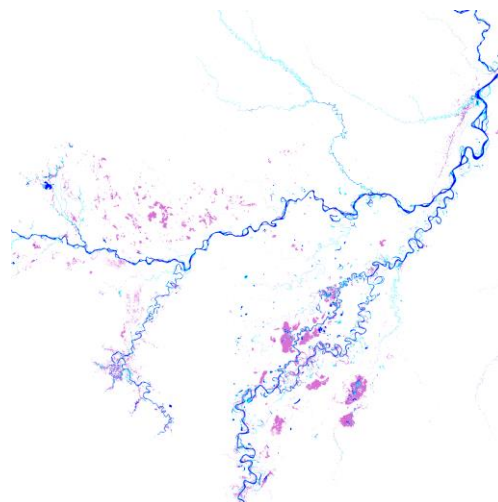
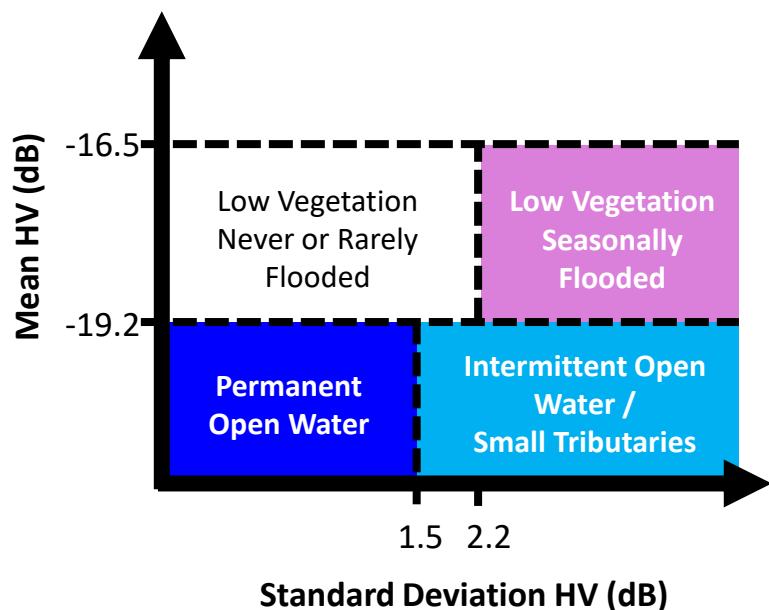
**VV Stdev [Sentinel-1, C-band]**



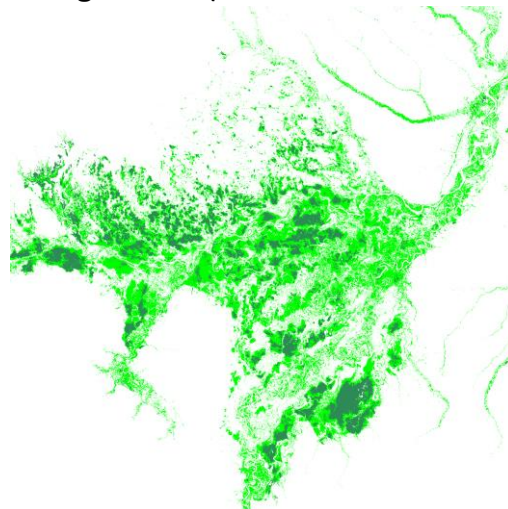
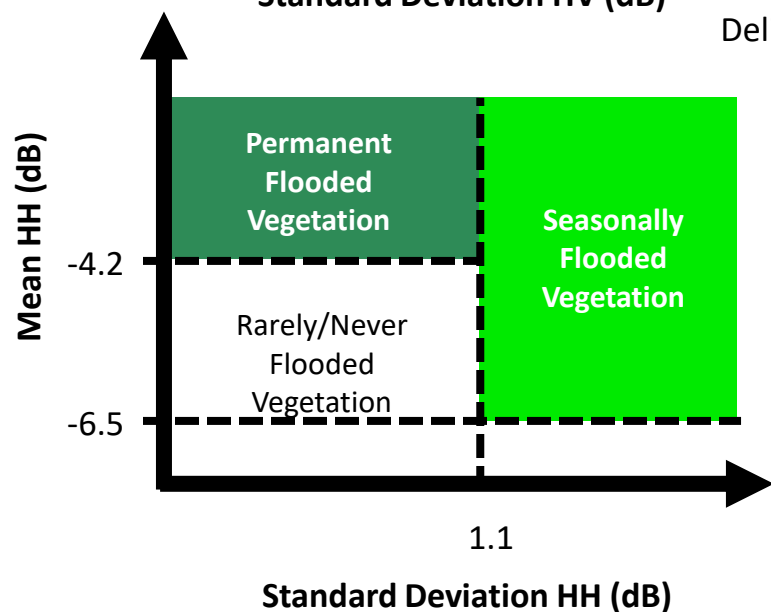


## Classification: Pacaya Samiria

Delineating Open Water + Flooded Low Vegetation (Permanent & Seasonal)



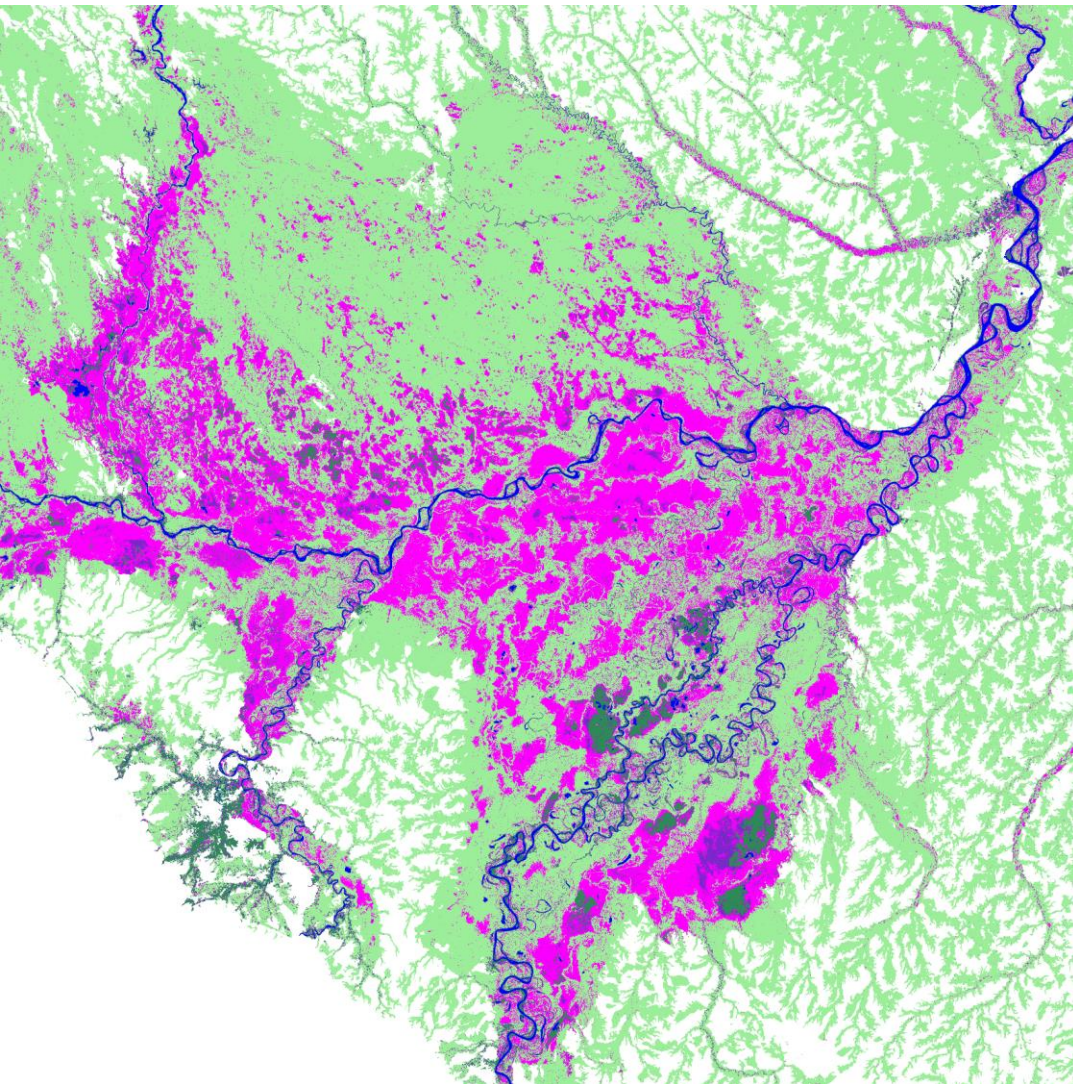
Delineating Inundated Vegetation (Permanent & Seasonal)








\* Elevation > 150m masked out

## Land Cover Classification Based on Multi-temporal PALSAR 2

### Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru



-  Permanent Open Water
-  Intermittent Open Water / Flooded Low Vegetation
-  Seasonally Flooded Forest
-  Permanent Flooded Forest
-  Never Flooded

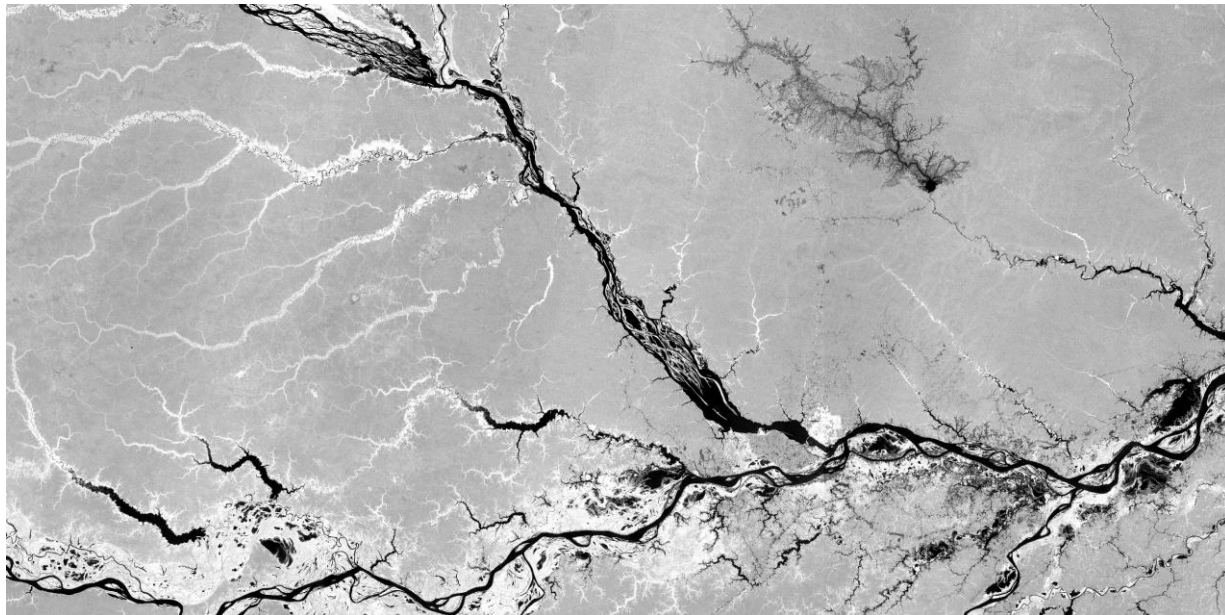
*Regions where Height Above Nearest Drainage (HAND) index > 20m masked out in white*



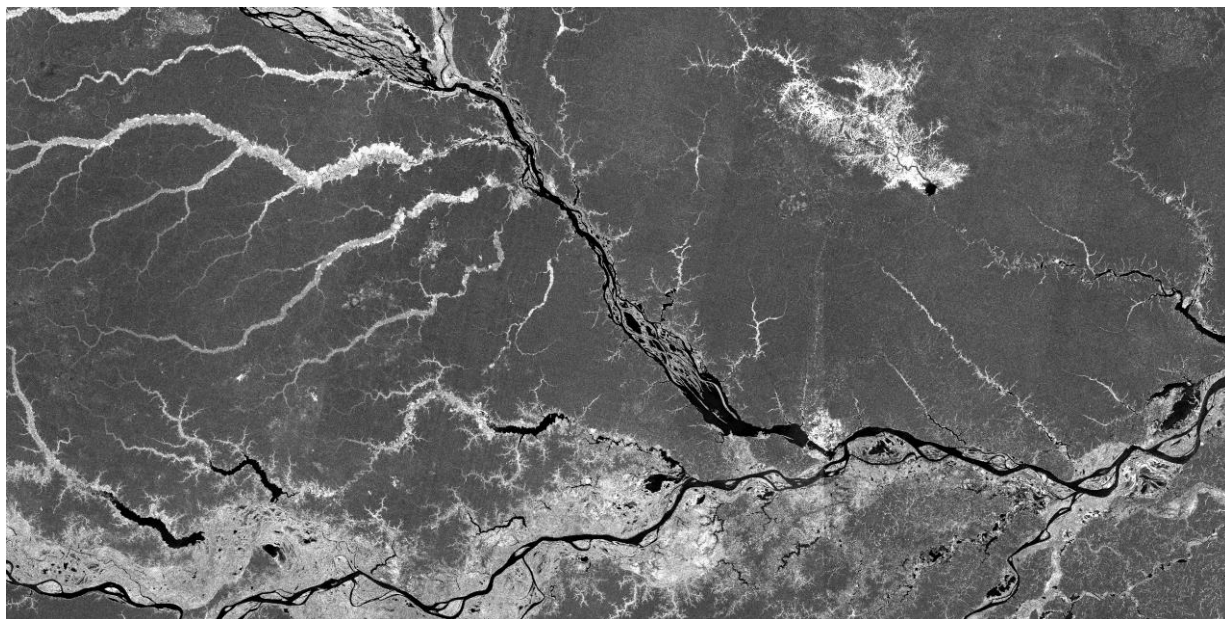
# PALSAR Backscatter Statistics

## Central Amazon

HH Mean

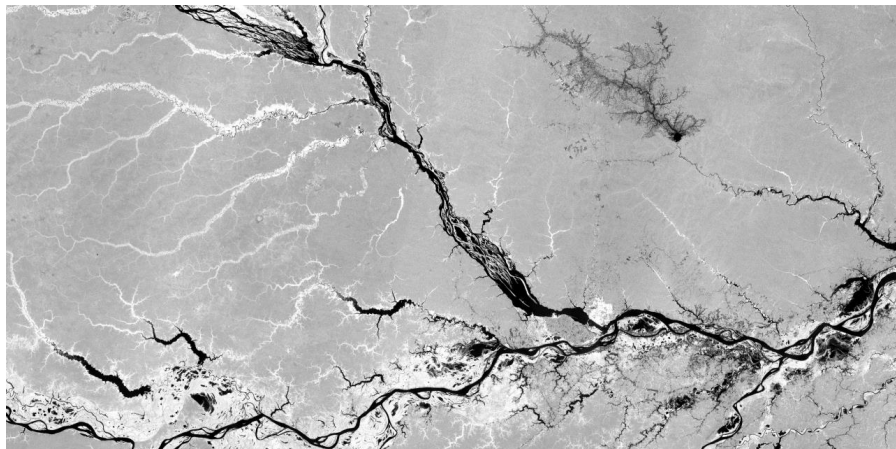


HH St Dev

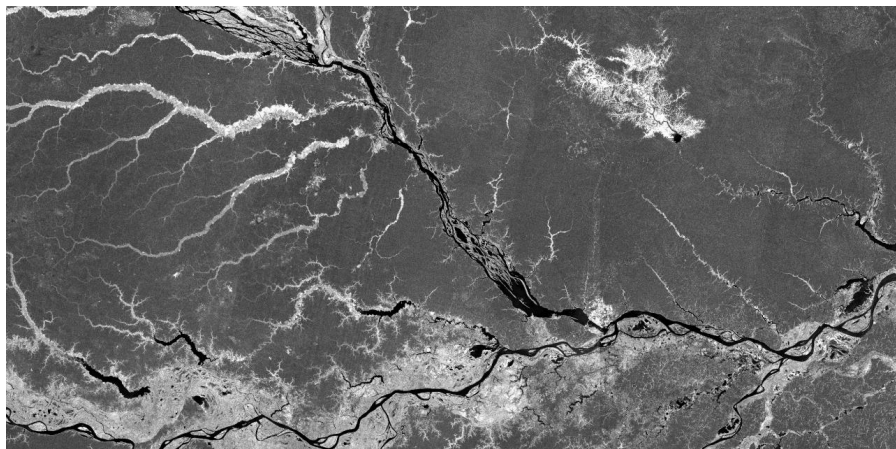




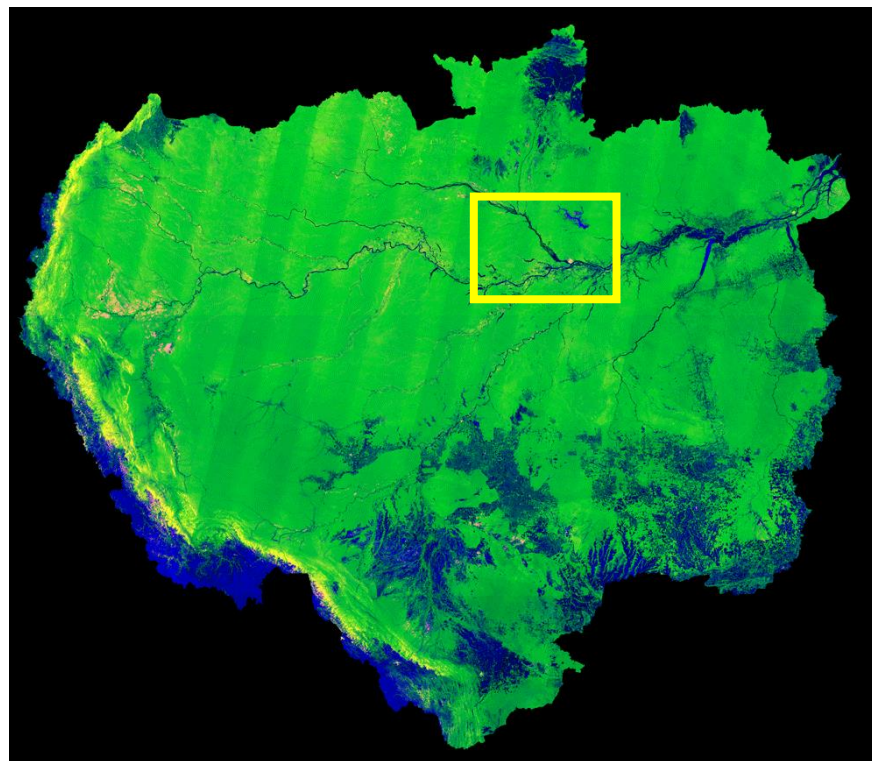
## PALSAR Backscatter Statistics: Central Amazon



HH Mean



HH St Dev

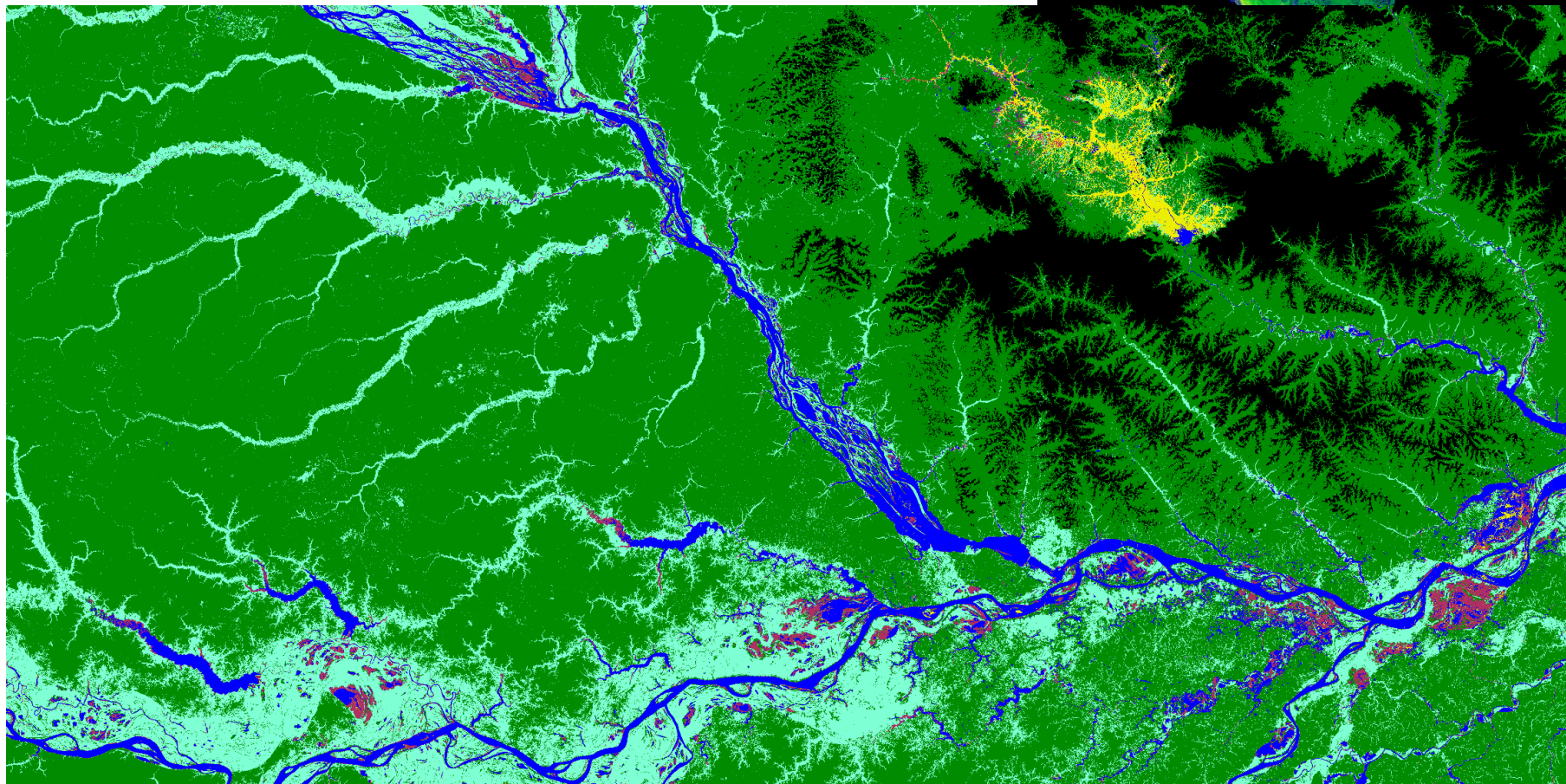
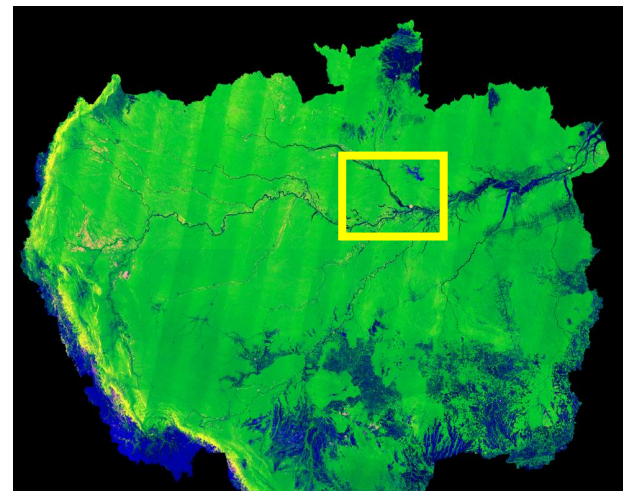


HH Max – Min:  
Dynamic Range in dB



Dark Blue: Open water  
Light Blue: Inundated  
Forest  
Green: Never Flooded  
Forest/Vegetation  
Yellow: Balbina Dam region  
Maroon: Seasonally  
submerged forest  
Black: Masked areas

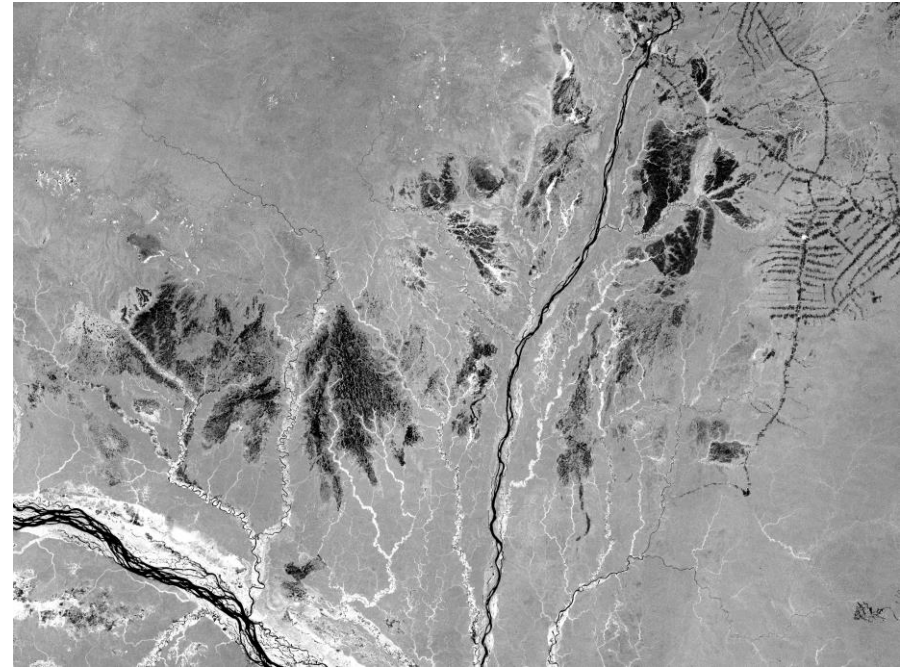
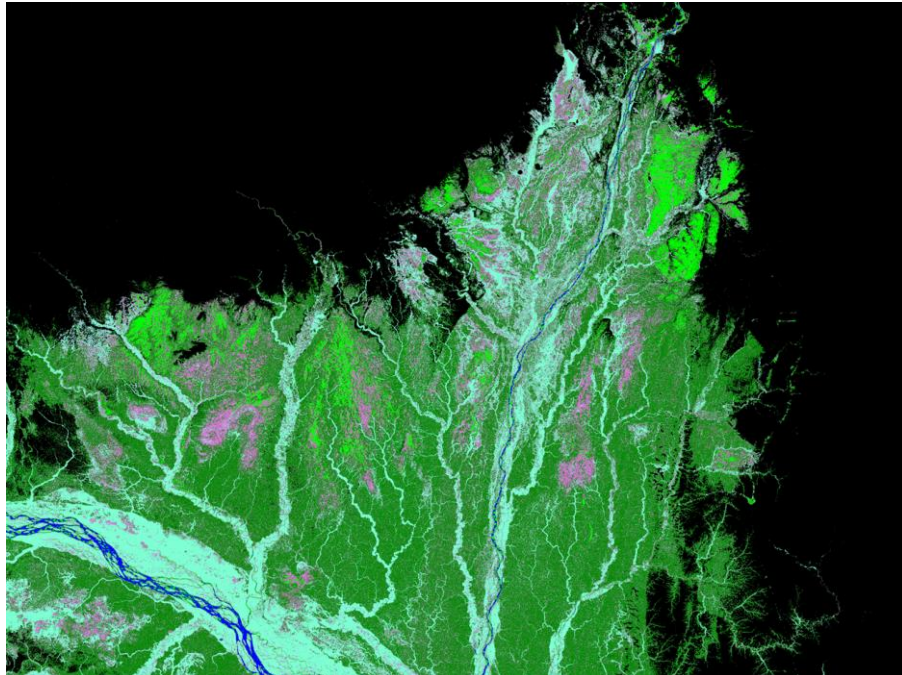
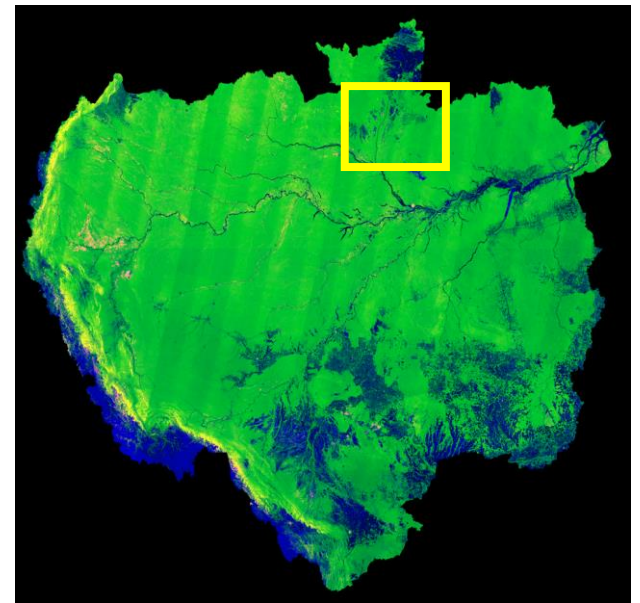
## PALSAR Classification: Central Amazon



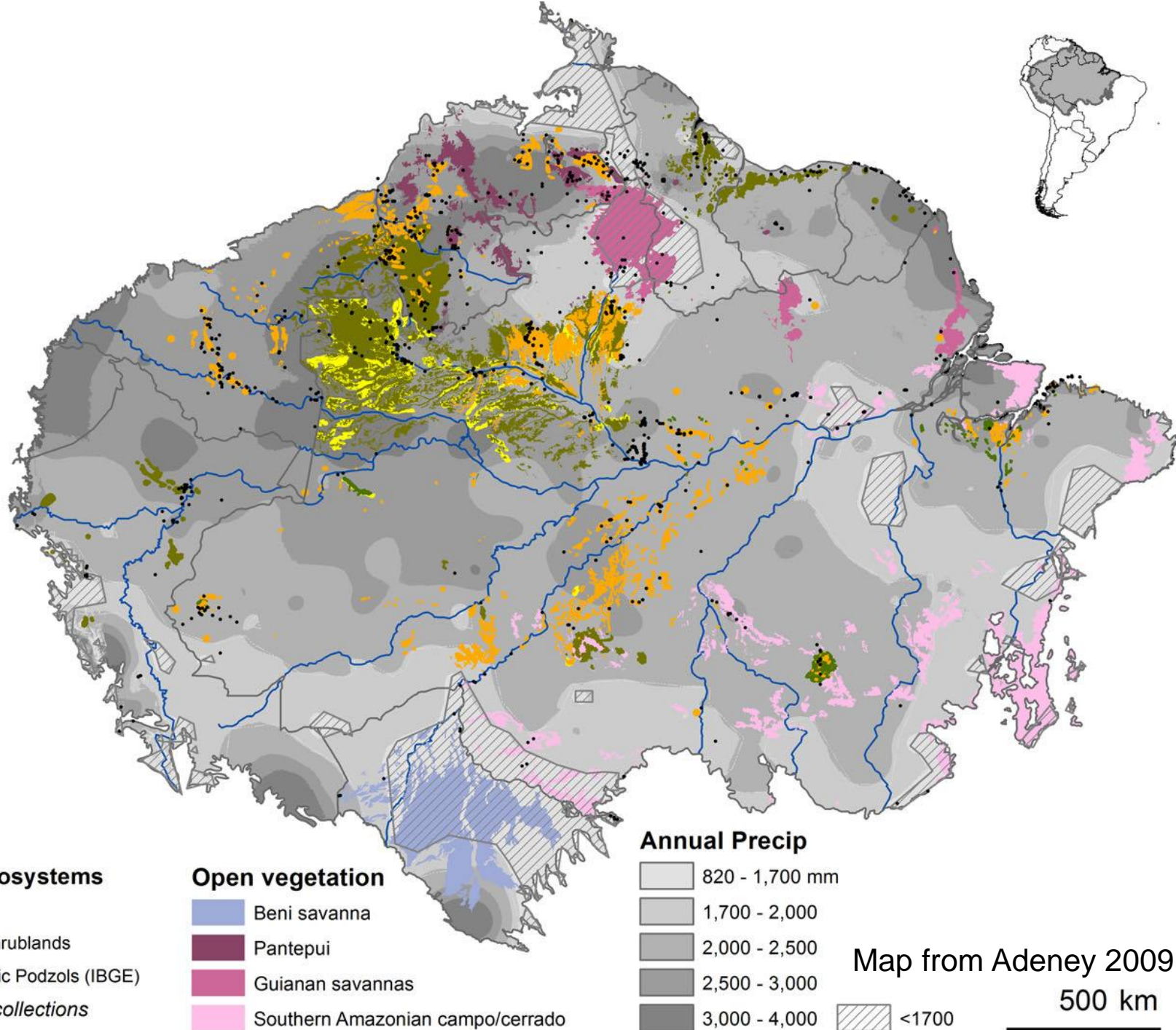


# PALSAR Classification: Rio Branco Region

Dark Blue: Open water  
Light Blue: Inundated  
Forest  
Green: Never Flooded  
Forest/Vegetation  
Yellow: Balbina Dam region  
Maroon: Seasonally  
submerged forest  
Black: Masked areas



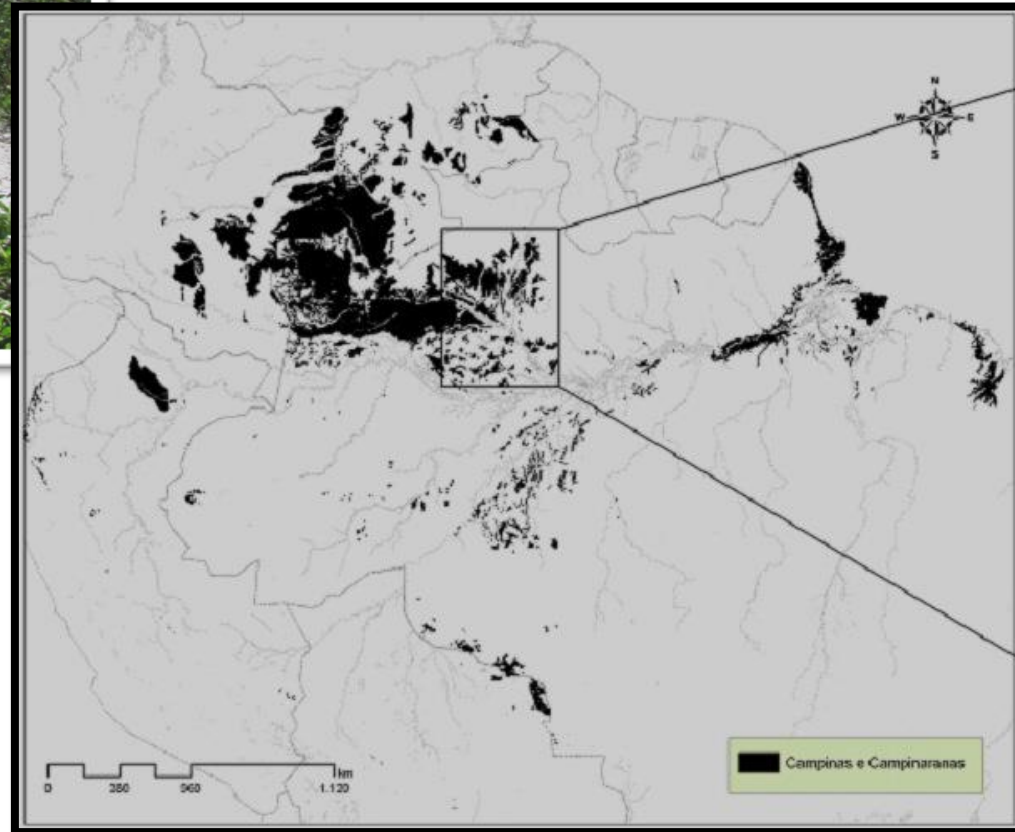
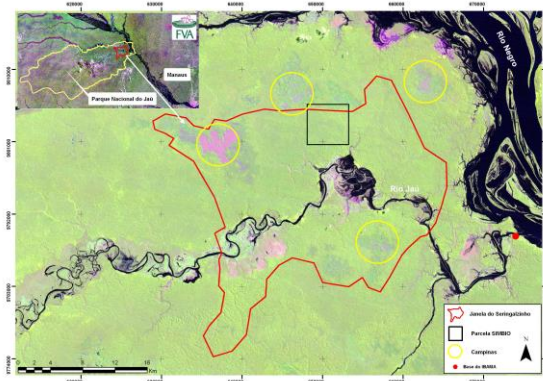




# White-sand avifauna



What can we learn  
about Amazonia  
landscape history?



Map from Vicentini 2007

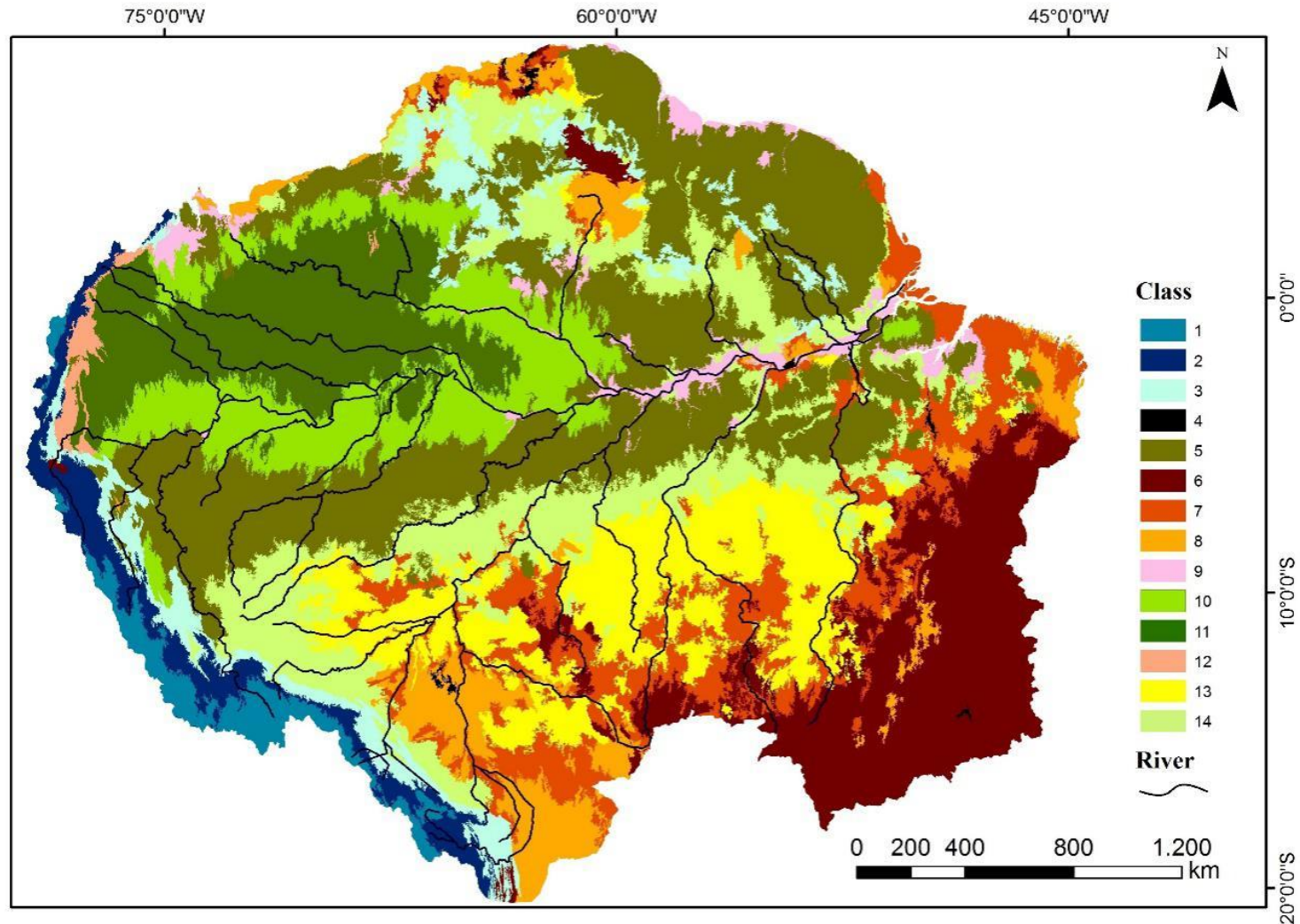


# Bioclimatic Envelopes

Source, layer of representation environmental (Layer), spatial resolution (Resolution) and attribute type (Attribute) used to map bioclimatic envelopes to Amazon Basin.

Source	Layer	Resolution	Attribute
SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)	Elevation	90 m	Abiotic
SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)	Slope	90 m	Abiotic
SRTM (Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)	Aspect	90 m	Abiotic
CHIRPS (Climate Hazards group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data)	Maximum precipitation	5,5 km	Abiotic
CHIRPS (Climate Hazards group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data)	Minimum precipitation	5,5 km	Abiotic
PALSAR (Phased Array type L band Synthetic Aperture Radar)	HH polarization	100 m	Abiotic/Biotic
MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer)	NDVI	250 m	Biotic
Avitabile et al., 2016	Canopy height	1km	Biotic
MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer)	Isothermality	1km	Abiotic

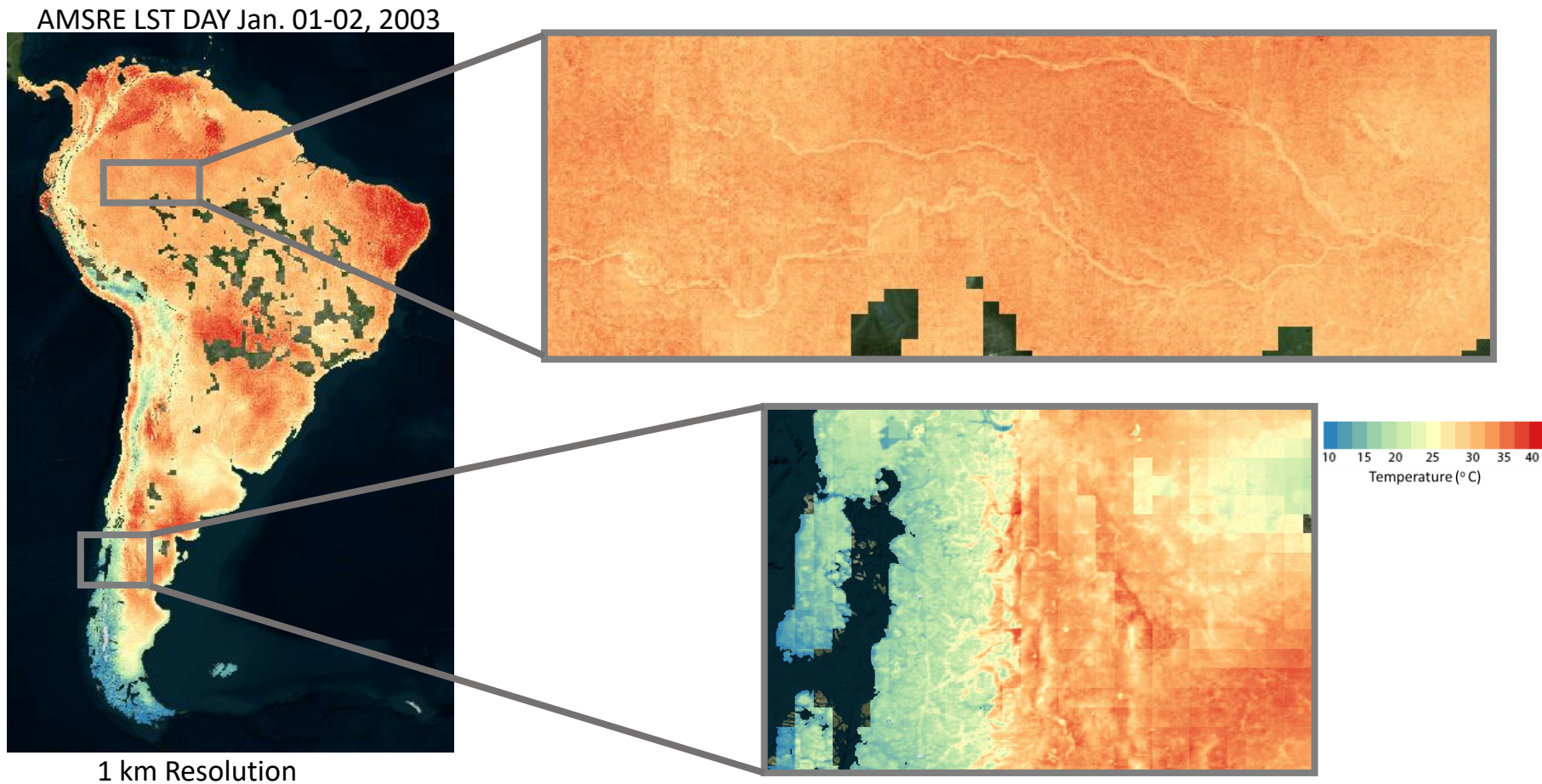
# Bioclimatic Envelopes



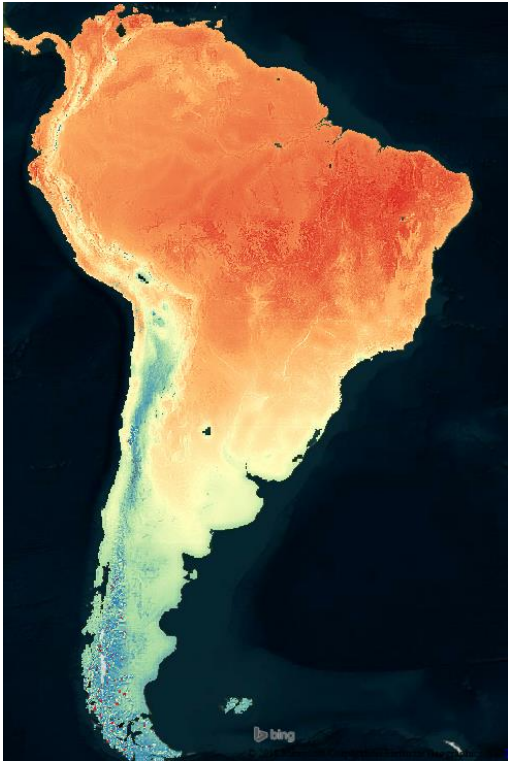
Final map of the distribution from bioclimatic envelopes in the Amazon basin with 14 classes.



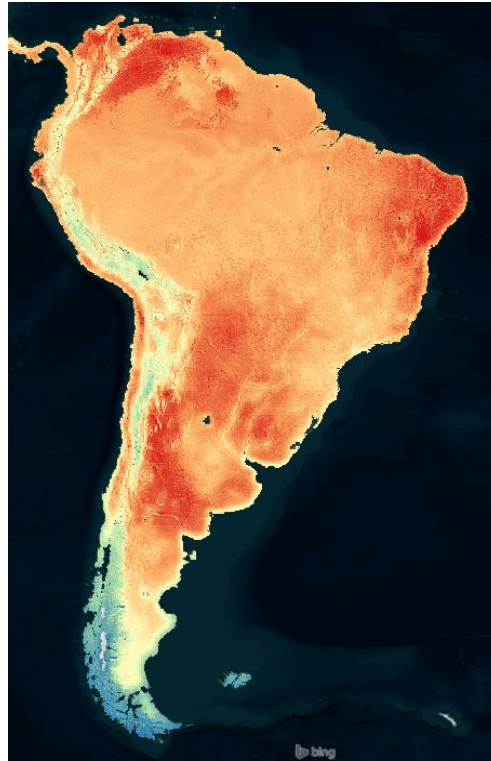
# Downscaled 1km AMSRE Land Surface Temperature



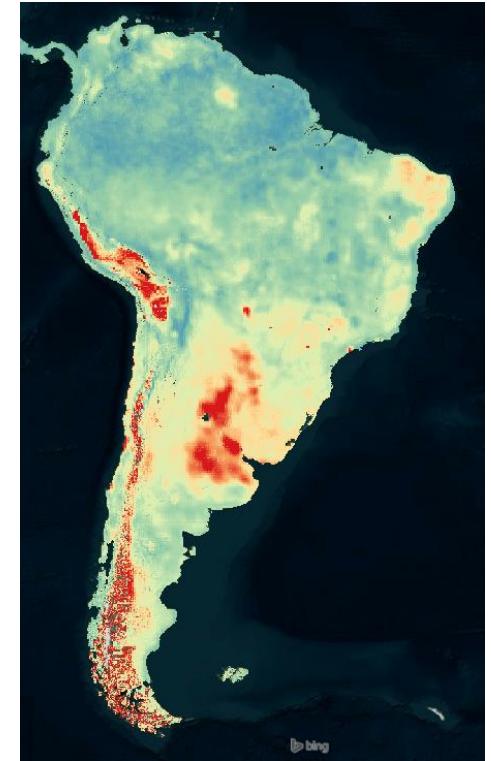
# AMSR-E 1km LST Seasonal Climatological Summary Statistics



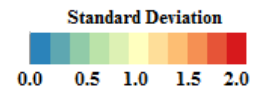
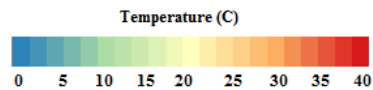
June-July-Aug Day Mean Temperature



Dec-Jan-Feb Day Max Temperature



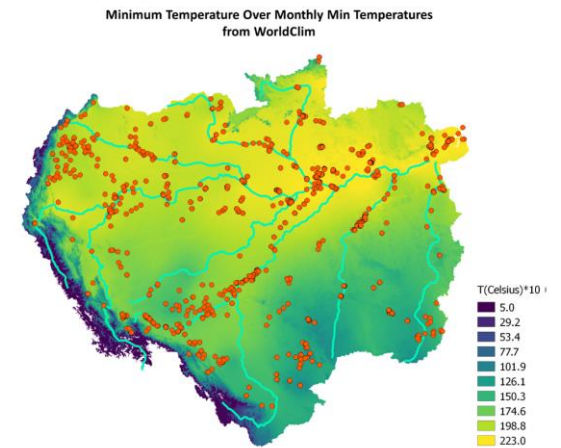
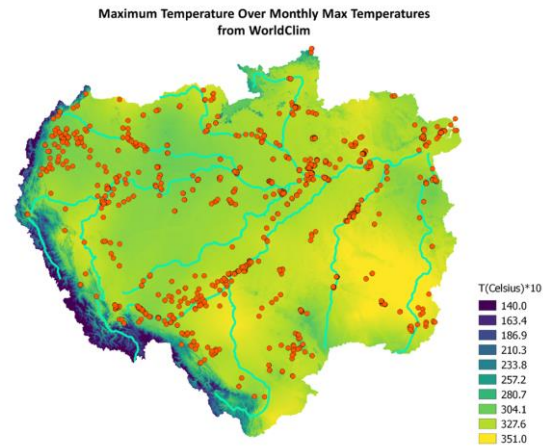
June-July-Aug Day St. Dev. of Temperature



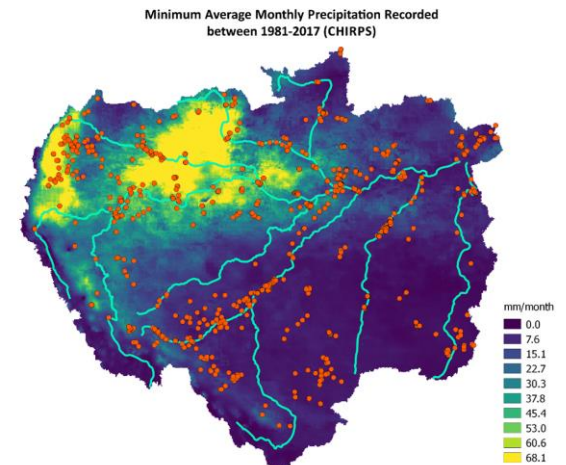
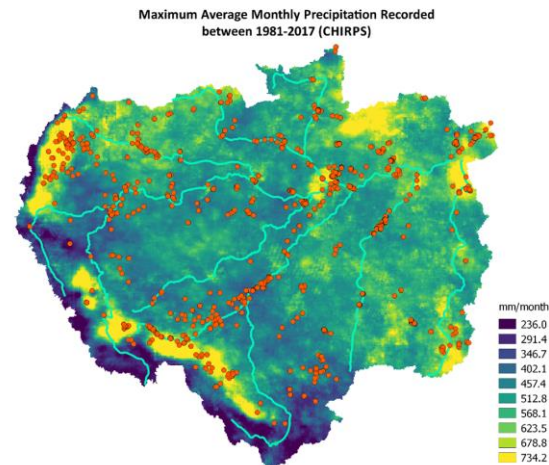


# Climatology Analysis over Amazon Tree Diversity Network Sites

WorldClim Temperature

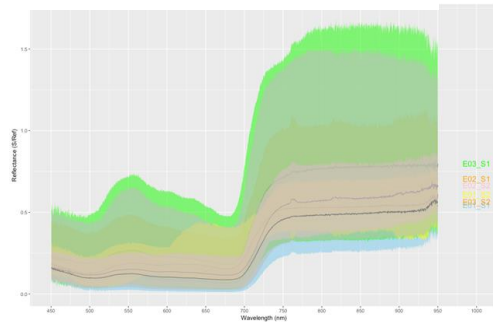


CHIRPS precipitation data.

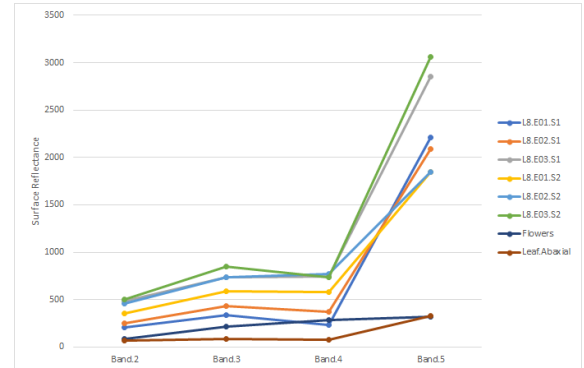
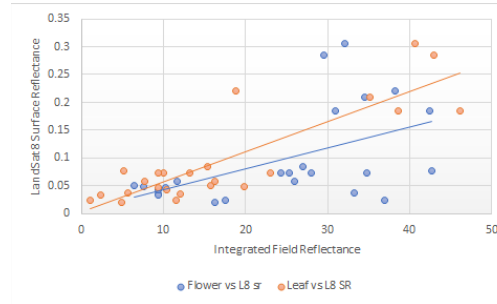
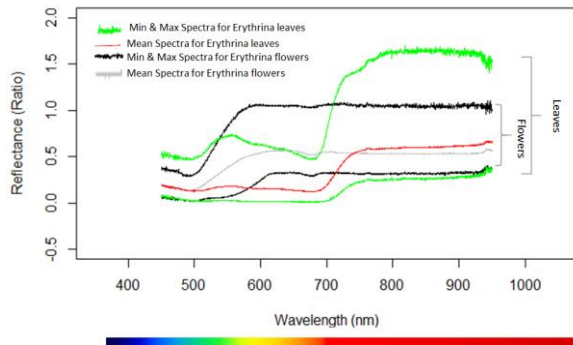
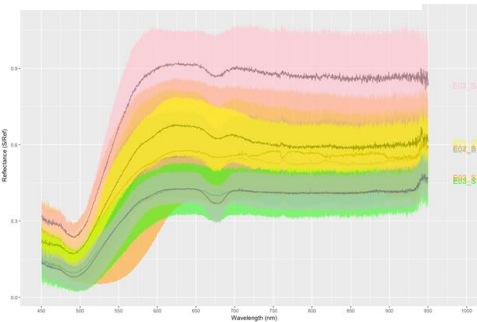


# Tracking Flowering Events in the Amazon Rain Forest, A Remote Sensing Approach

Spectra of the Leaves



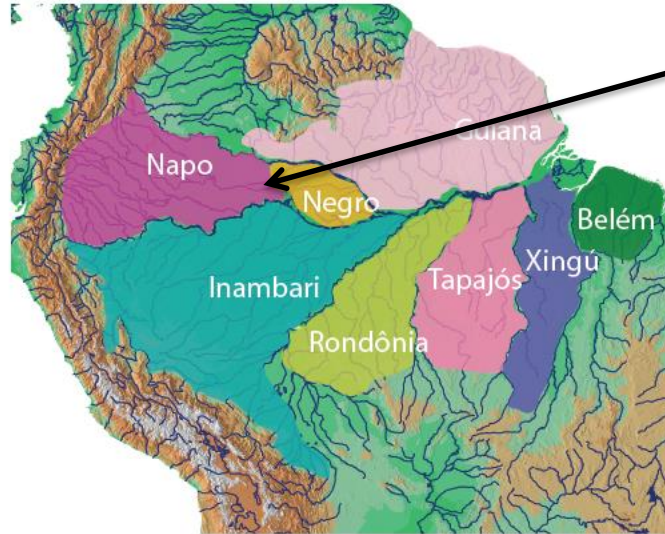
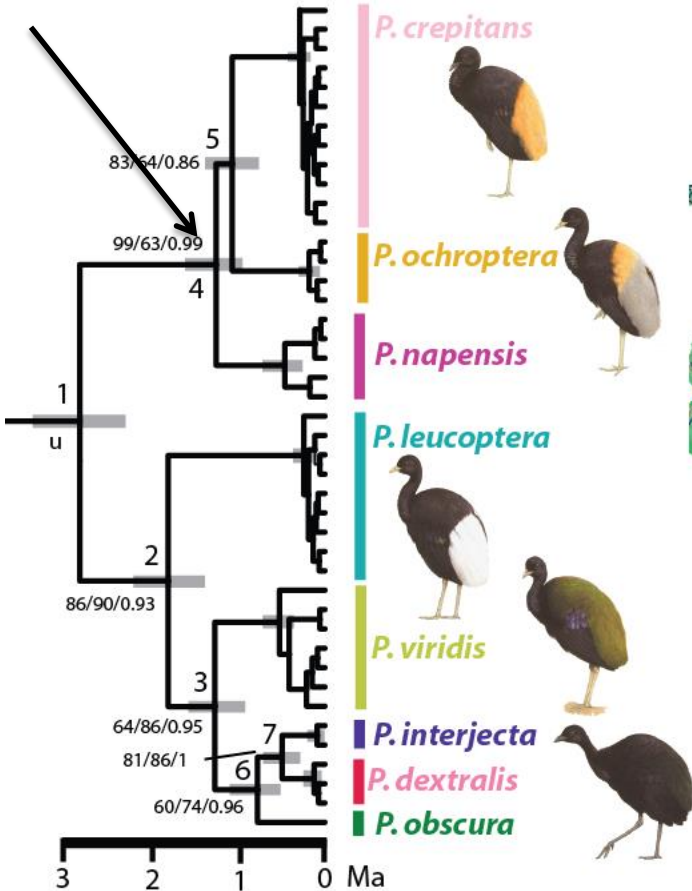
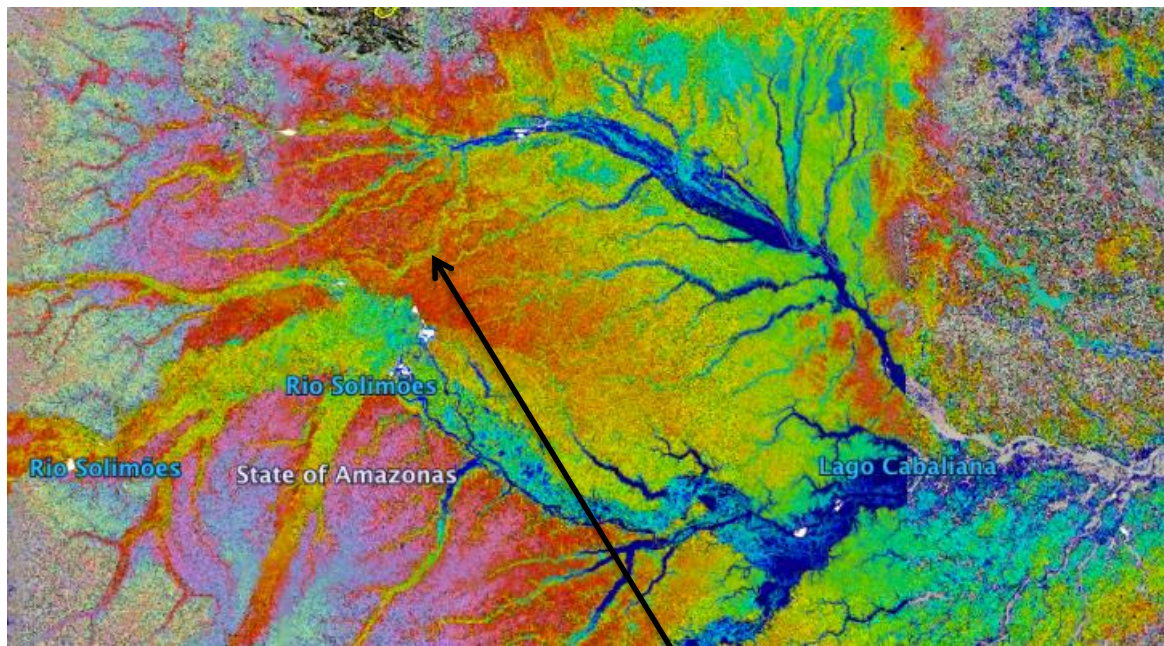
Spectra of the flowers





Hypothesized  
paleoriver postulated by  
phylogenetic analysis

later verified by  
remote sensing



postulated  
paleoriver  
vicariance event  
at ~1.2 myr between  
*Psophia napensis*  
and its sister-group  
(*P. ochroptera* + *P. crepitans*)

Ribas et al. 2012 *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 279:681-689



# Reconstructing the history of the Amazonian biota and environment

An aerial photograph of a vast Amazonian landscape. A large, wide river with muddy, brown water flows from the top center towards the bottom of the frame. The river is flanked by lush green vegetation, likely rainforest. Several smaller, winding channels and floodplains are visible, creating a complex network of waterways. In some areas, small clusters of buildings or settlements are visible on the riverbanks. The sky is visible at the top, showing some clouds.

**Portions of this work were carried out within the framework of the JAXA Kyoto and Carbon Initiative. ALOS PALSAR and PALSAR2 data were provided by JAXA EORC.**